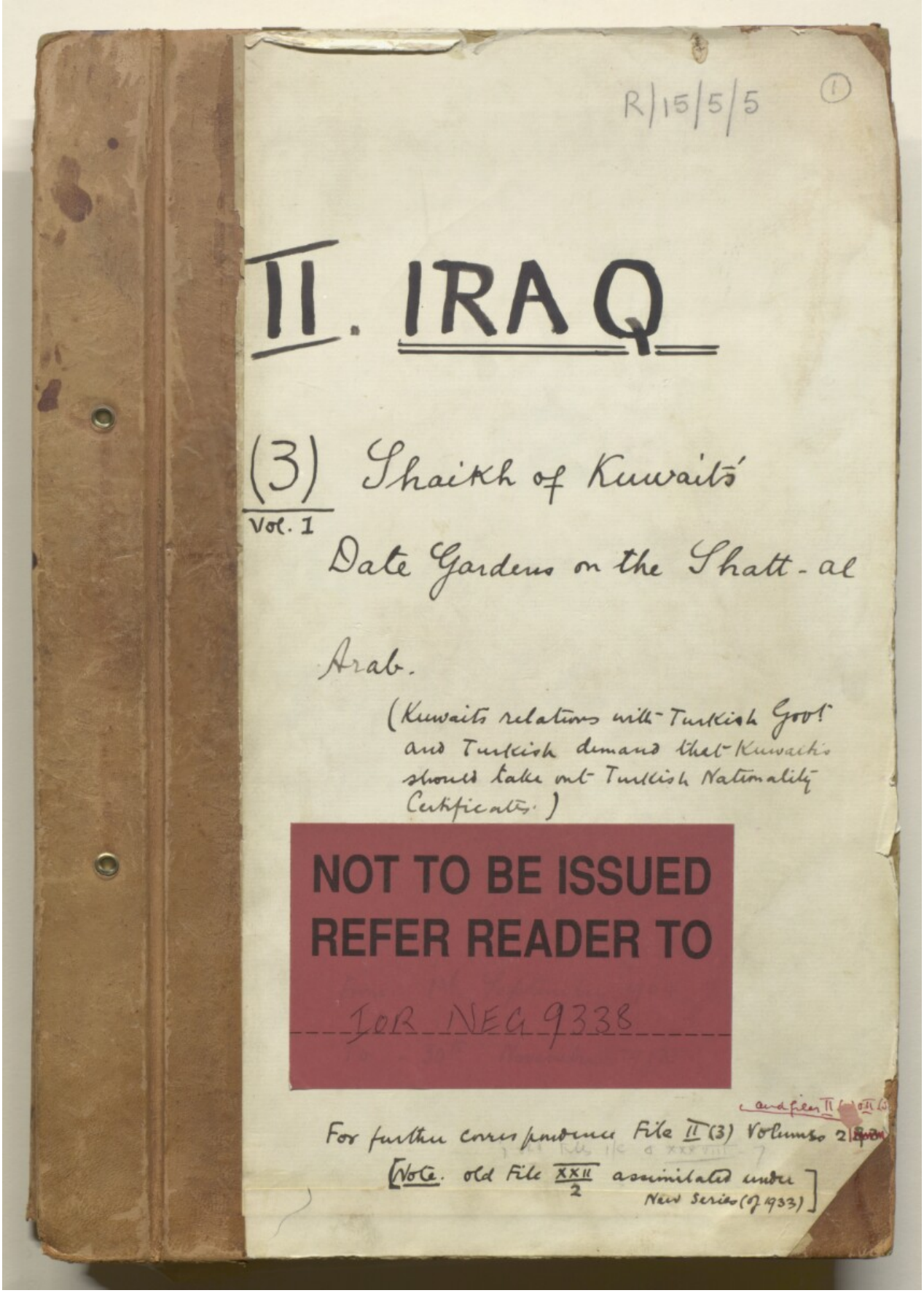
Reference	IOR/R/15/5/5
Title	'File II. IRAQ (3) Vol. 1 Shaikh of Kuwait's Date Gardens on the Shatt-al Arab. (Kuwait's relations with Turkish Govt. and Turkish demand that Kuwaitis should take out Turkish Nationality Certificates)'
Date(s)	18 Sep 1904-10 Nov 1913 (CE, Gregorian)
Written in	English and Arabic in Latin and Arabic script
Extent and Format	1 volume (307 folios)
Holding Institution	British Library: India Office Records and Private Papers
Copyright for document	Public Domain

About this record

The volume comprises telegrams, despatches, correspondence, memoranda, and notes, relating to the:

- Shaikh of Kuwait's date gardens on the Shatt al-`Arab
- Turkish demand that Kuwaitis should take out Turkish Nationality Certificates
- registration of Shaikh Mubarak's property at Faddaghiya
- offer of a cash salary to Shaikh of Kuwait as Qaimaqam

The principal correspondents in the volume include the Political Agent, Kuwait, Stuart George Knox; the Ruler of Kuwait, Shaikh Mubarak al Sabah; and the Political Resident in Turkish Arabia, John Gordon Lorimer.



R/15/5/5 (1)

II. IRAQ

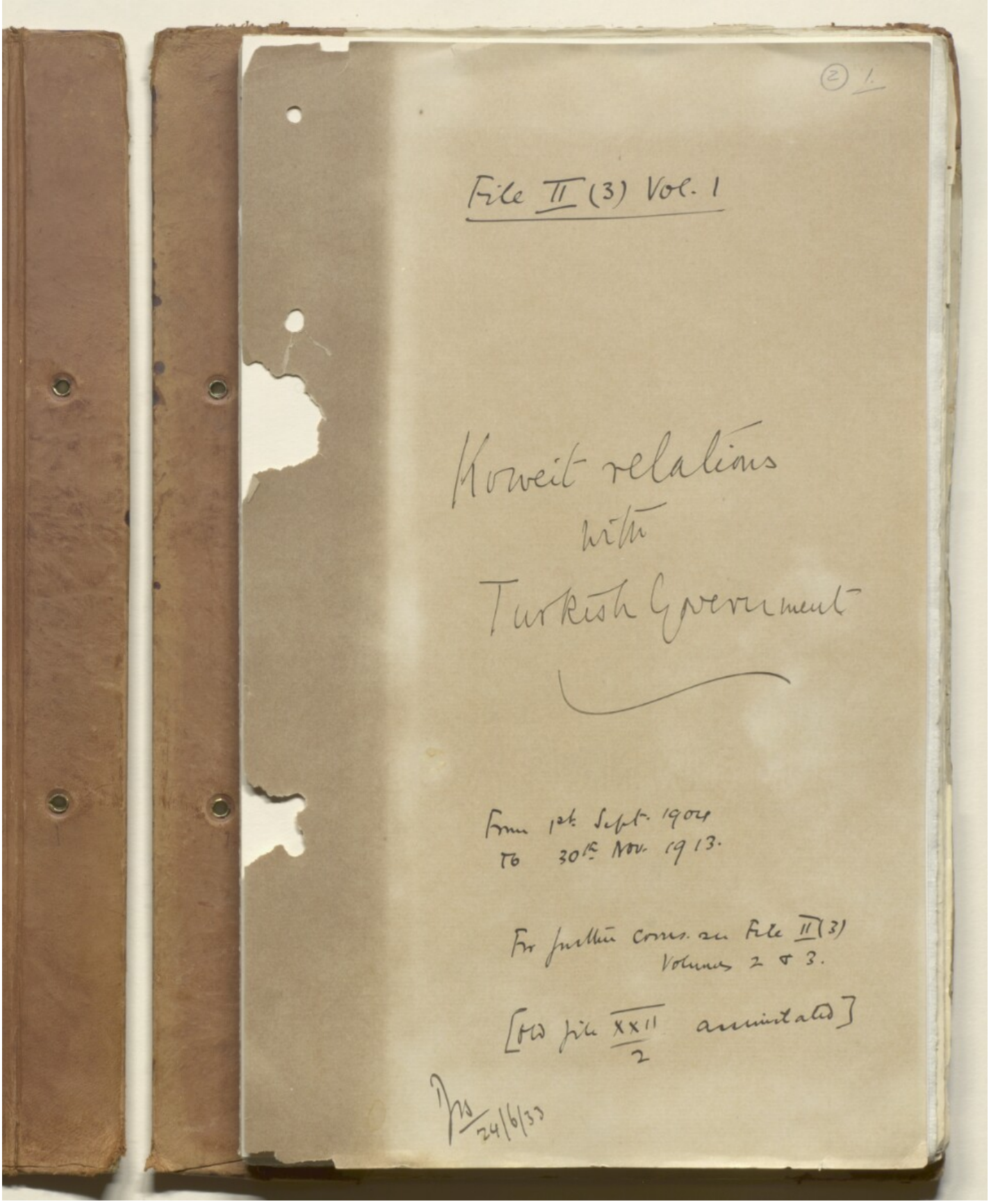
(3) Vol. 1

Shaikh of Kuwait's Date Gardens on the Shatt-al Arab.

(Kuwait's relations with Turkish Govt. and Turkish demand that Kuwaitis should take out Turkish Nationality Certificates.)

For further correspondence File II (3) Volumes 2 and files II (3) Vol. (4)

[Note. old File XXII/2 assimilated under New Series (of 1933)]



(2) 1.

File II (3) Vol. 1

Koweit relations
with
Turkish Government

From 1st Sept. 1904
To 30th Nov. 1913.

For further corrs. see File II (3)
Volumes 2 & 3.

[Old file XXII/2 amalgamated]

24/6/33

Confidential To the (3) 2.
P. R.

No 28 Dt. Koweit
18/9/4

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith the copy of a letter received by Sheikh Mobarak from Bussorah which may prove of interest.

(above page 3)

2. The Sheikh's munshi informs me that the Sheikh has sent a noncommitting reply, in which he says that he has received the letter & understood the contents but nothing more. The communication was of course made to me with the Sheikh's knowledge & approval & may be taken as coming from the Sheikh

himself V
I have to
PK.

3
④ 3

Translation

I have come to know from the Russian Consul that, if you will send a man to speak with the Russian consul & others of their statesmen travelling to their country in the Russian ship which came on the 1st Rajab = 12th September 1904 certainly the Turkish Government is inclined for reconciliation, so that it will be willing that your town should return to its former condition with an increase in your pay & the Russian & French Governments will be responsible for (the good faith of?) the Ottoman Government for a small condition that you will permit them to appoint two consuls for them in your town, as has been permitted to the English Government. As for the return of the vessel to its country, its journey from here will be after about 12 days. This was what it was necessary to report to you & may you remain guarded & greeting

Dy. 1st Rajab 1322 H = 12th Sept. 1904.

True translation

[illegible] Captain
Political Agent Koweit

Confidential

بسم الله

اني وقفت على علم من قنسل الروس لو ترسلون هنا احدى طرفكم للكلام مع جناب قنسل الروس
وغيرهم من اعيان دولتهم مسافرون الى بلدهم في مركب الروس الذي انا اول شهر رجب
الى البصرة وان دولة العثمانية اصغت الى الصلح بانها ترضا باعادت بلادكم الى حالت
السابقة بزيادت معاش وتضمن دولتا الروسيا وفرانسا الدولة العثمانيه
بشرط خفيف كان تاذنون لهما بنصب قنسلين لهما في بلادكم كما اذن
مثله للدولة الانكليز اما رجوع المركب الى بلادهم فسفره من هنا بعد نحو
اثنا عشر يوم هذا ما وجب تعريفه لازلتم محفوظين والسلام فا رجب

Copy of a letter handed to me by Mullah Abdulla, munshi of Sheikh Mubarak. This letter was addressed to Sheikh Mubarak & signed by some one in Bussorah, whose name the Sheikh prefers not to disclose. I have not seen the original. The Mullah only brought a copy.

Translation endorsed

Dt. 18/9/4. S. Meus Captain
P.A. Koweit

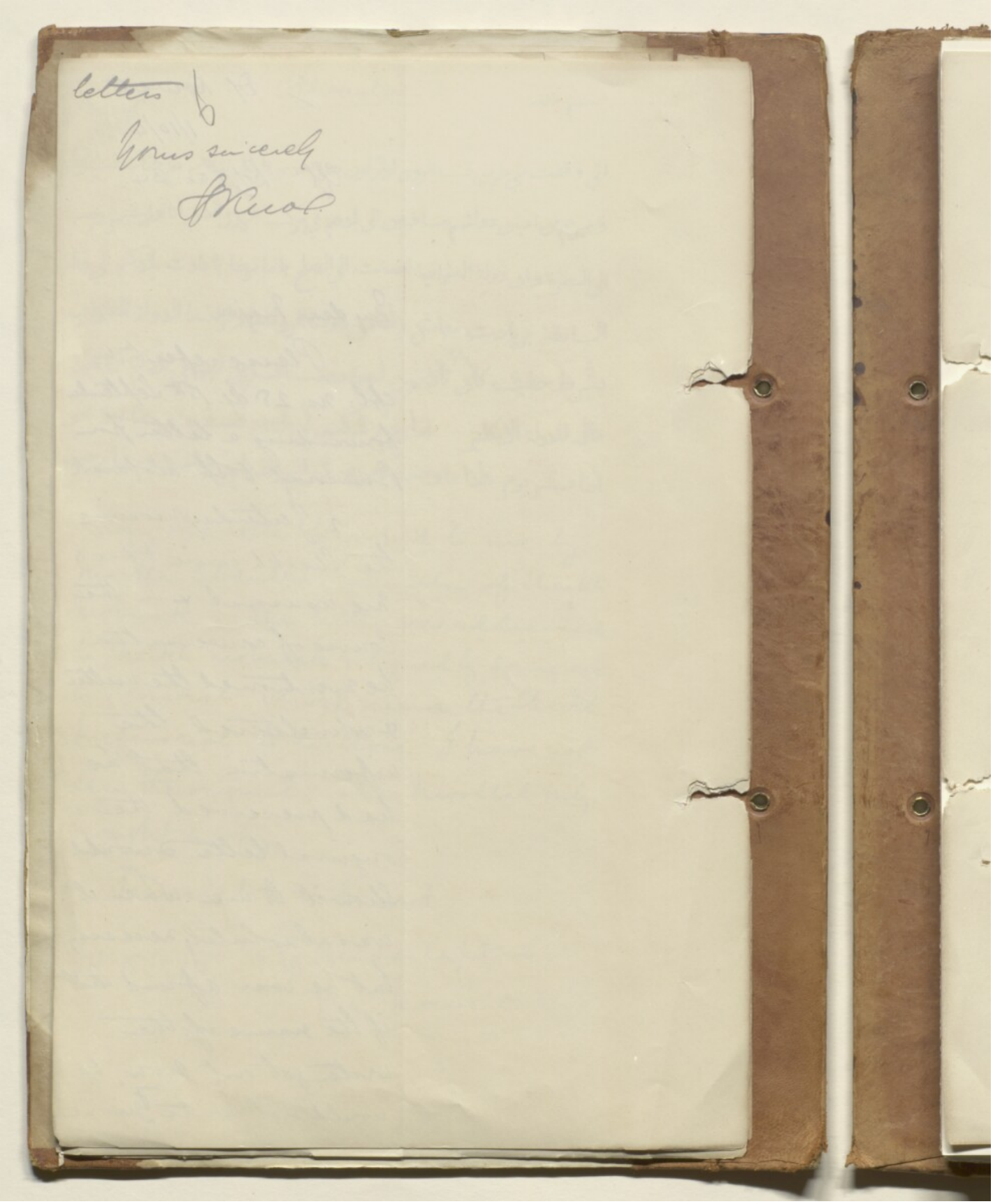
4. D/. Koweit
1/10/4.
(5)

Cfl D/O no: 34.

My dear Major,

Please refer to my cfl: no: 28 dt. 18th September forwarding a letter from Bussorah to Sh. Mobarak. page 1

2. Yesterday morning the Sheikh came to see me as usual & in the course of conversation he mentioned the matter & volunteered the information that he had preserved the original letter & would show it to me when it was absolutely necessary but he was afraid that if the name of the writer got out now, he would not write any more


letters

From Sir Nicholas O'Connor
H.B.M's ambassador at Constantinople

To
J.H. Monahan Esqre
H.B.M's Consul Bussorah

Very confidential

Df. Therapia
27th August 1904

Forwarded to P.R. (a copy taken at Bushire by P.A. Koweit) with Consul Bussorah's end^t Df. 27th Sept. Rec^d at Bushire 1st Oct 1904.

Talib Bey, in a secret report on the general situation in Arabia addressed to the Grand Vizier, recommends that a single Kaza or even a Mutessarflik be formed out of Koweit & Fao to secure Bussorah & Iraq against British aggression. He recommends that the Sheikh of Koweit be summoned to the capital of the Vilayet & that he be there sent to Constantinople with all honour & marks of favor & that a trustworthy man should replace Mubarak.

Incidentally in this report, he mentions that he has good reason to believe that Sheikh Isa of Bahrein will declare his allegiance & submission by a special letter. Talib Bey seems to be a man of political ambitions & it would

be well to let the Resident Bushire
know the purport of the foregoing
report.

OFFICE NOTE.

6

7

Much information re relations between Koweit and the Turkish authorities is contained in the earlier pages of the following Files:—

Sheikh's Date Gardens VIII/1

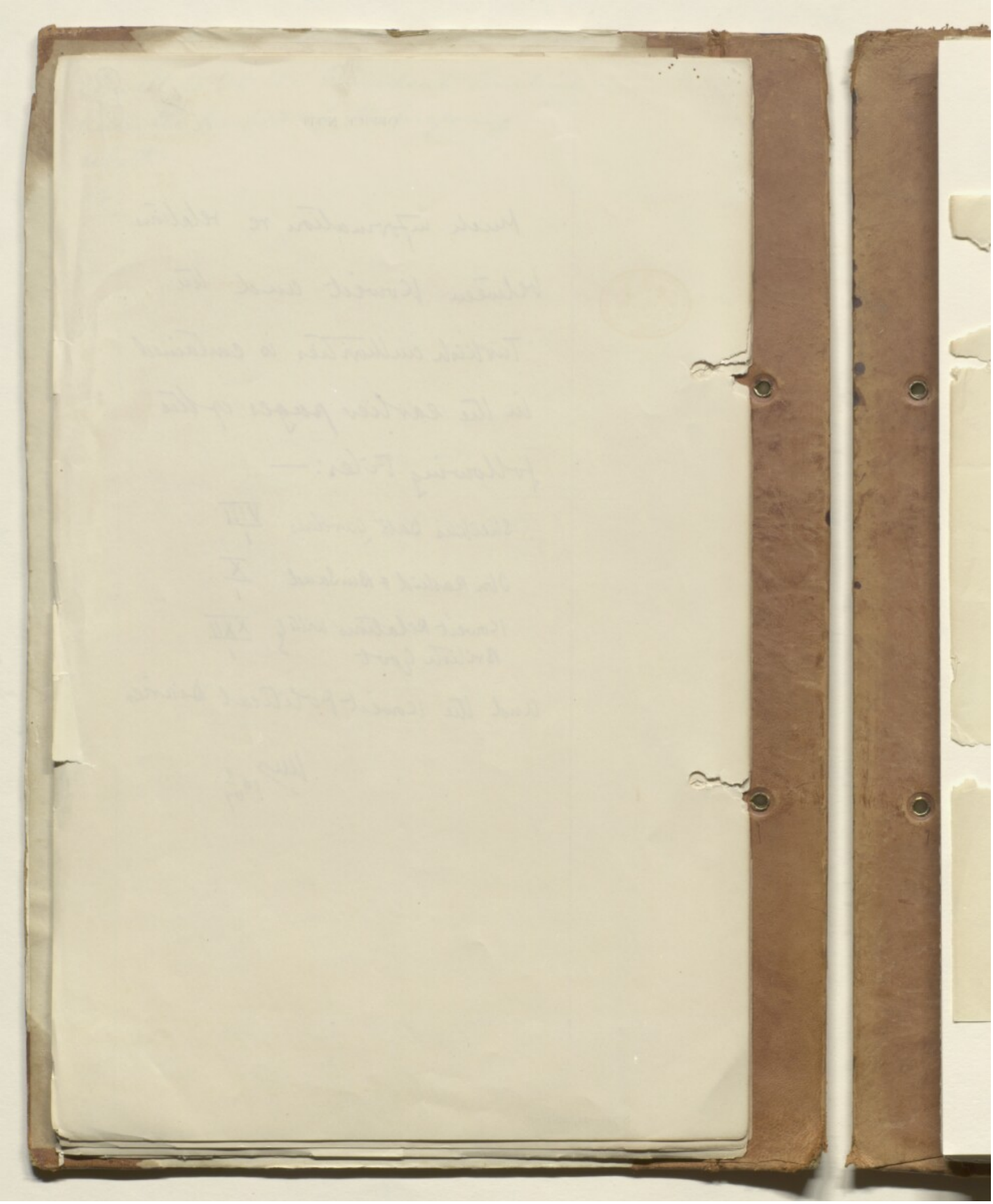
Ibn Rashid & Bin Saud X/1

Koweit Relations with British Govt XXII/1

and the Koweit Political Diaries

MWS 10/9/09

S 741—11,000-1-08



CONFIDENTIAL.

7.
(8) 10

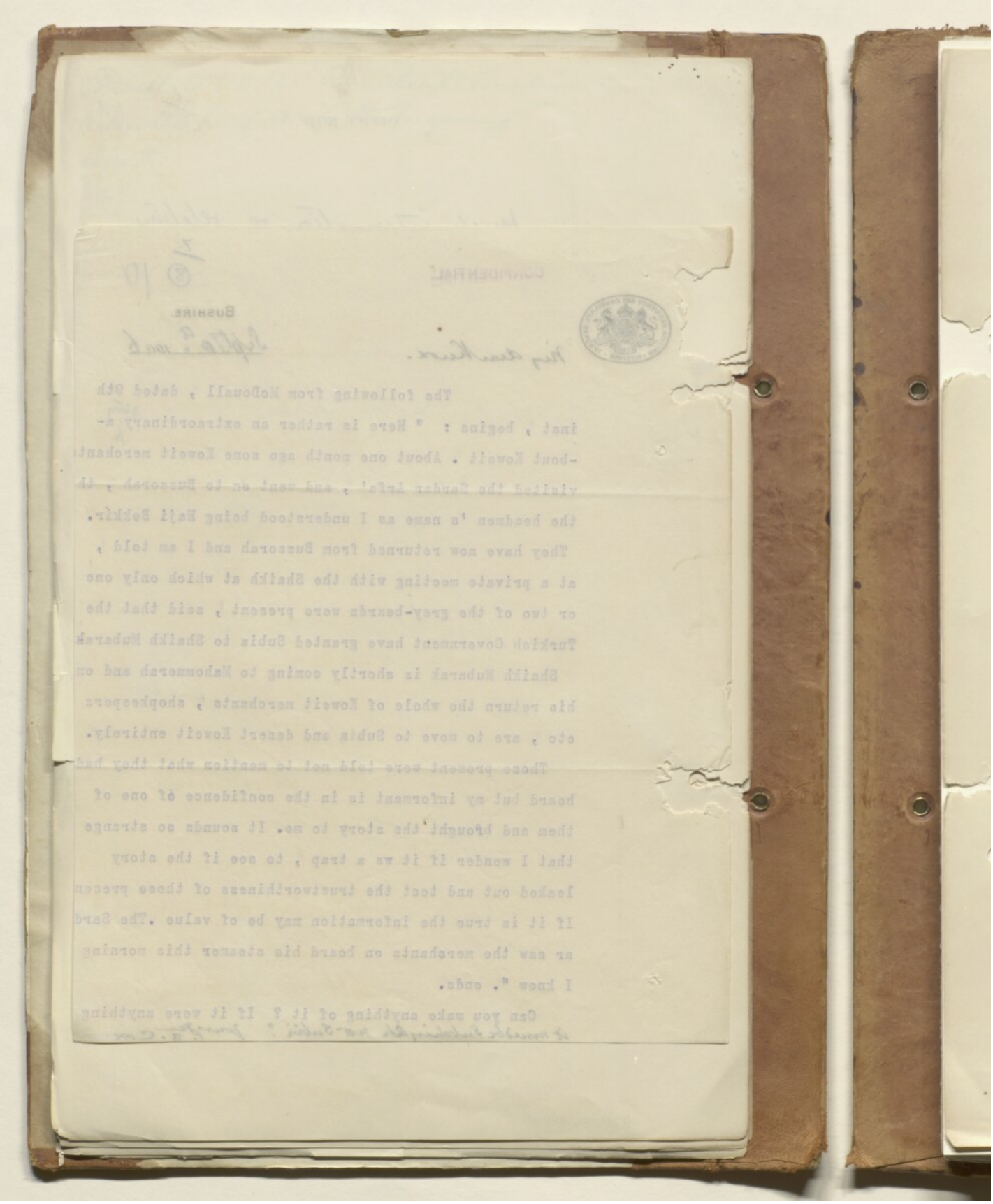
BUSHIRE.

Sept 10th 1906

My dear Knox.

The following from McDouall, dated 9th inst, begins: "Here is rather an extraordinary story about Koweit. About one month ago some Koweit merchants visited the Sardar Arfa', and went on to Bussorah, th the headmen's name as I understood being Haji Bekkir. They have now returned from Bussorah and I am told, at a private meeting with the Shaikh at which only one or two of the grey-beards were present, said that the Turkish Government have granted Subia to Shaikh Mubarak Shaikh Mubarak is shortly coming to Mahommerah and on his return the whole of Koweit merchants, shopkeepers etc, are to move to Subia and desert Koweit entirely. Those present were told not to mention what they had heard but my informant is in the confidence of one of them and brought the story to me. It sounds so strange that I wonder if it ws a trap, to see if the story leaked out and test the trustworthiness of those presen If it is true the information may be of value. The Sardar saw the merchants on board his steamer this morning I know". ends.

Can you make anything of it? If it were anything it would be Subah instead of Subia? Yours P. Z. Cox



8.

Confidential

Koweit
Persian Gulf.
14/9/06.
(9)

My dear Major,

Your confidential D/o. of date Sept 10th 1906.

I cannot think that there is anything in the story about a general Koweit migration to Sabri'a. The name is alright & it would be slightly more probable than a migration to Subaihy'a.

Subaihy'a is nothing but a group of wells to the west of the Bugan hills where there is good camel grazing. It is about 35 miles south & slightly west of Koweit & about 15 from the nearest

page 10

12

Sea coast which would be the Adan villages of Fantaso, Fanaitis, Aboo Halaifa & Shuaiba. Koweit could not live there for a week.

Sabia is on the bay, the opposite horn to Ras Ajuza. From my house you look to it almost due north. It is on the south end of the Khor Bubiyan & boats can only approach at high tide. It would be a perfectly hopeless place for the Koweit pearl boats or for the steamers cargo boats, much more so for the big Koweit trading bussalows. There is a small date garden & a scanty brackish water supply. Sheikh Mubarak may possibly be thinking of making a small

9 (10) 13

settlement there & of cultivating the coast line between Umm Kasar & Sabiya which might repay his pains but it seems to me quite preposterous to imagine that he could dream of ruling Koweit there. His subject would revolt for there has been quite a lot of money sunk in Koweit, in building a wharfe &c.

It is possible that Sh. Mobarak who claims Sabia as his own undoubtedly, may have been trying to get Turkish recognition of his property in the place & wishes to mark his ownership in the way I have indicated.

It is also a smuggling depôt on a small scale for arms destined for

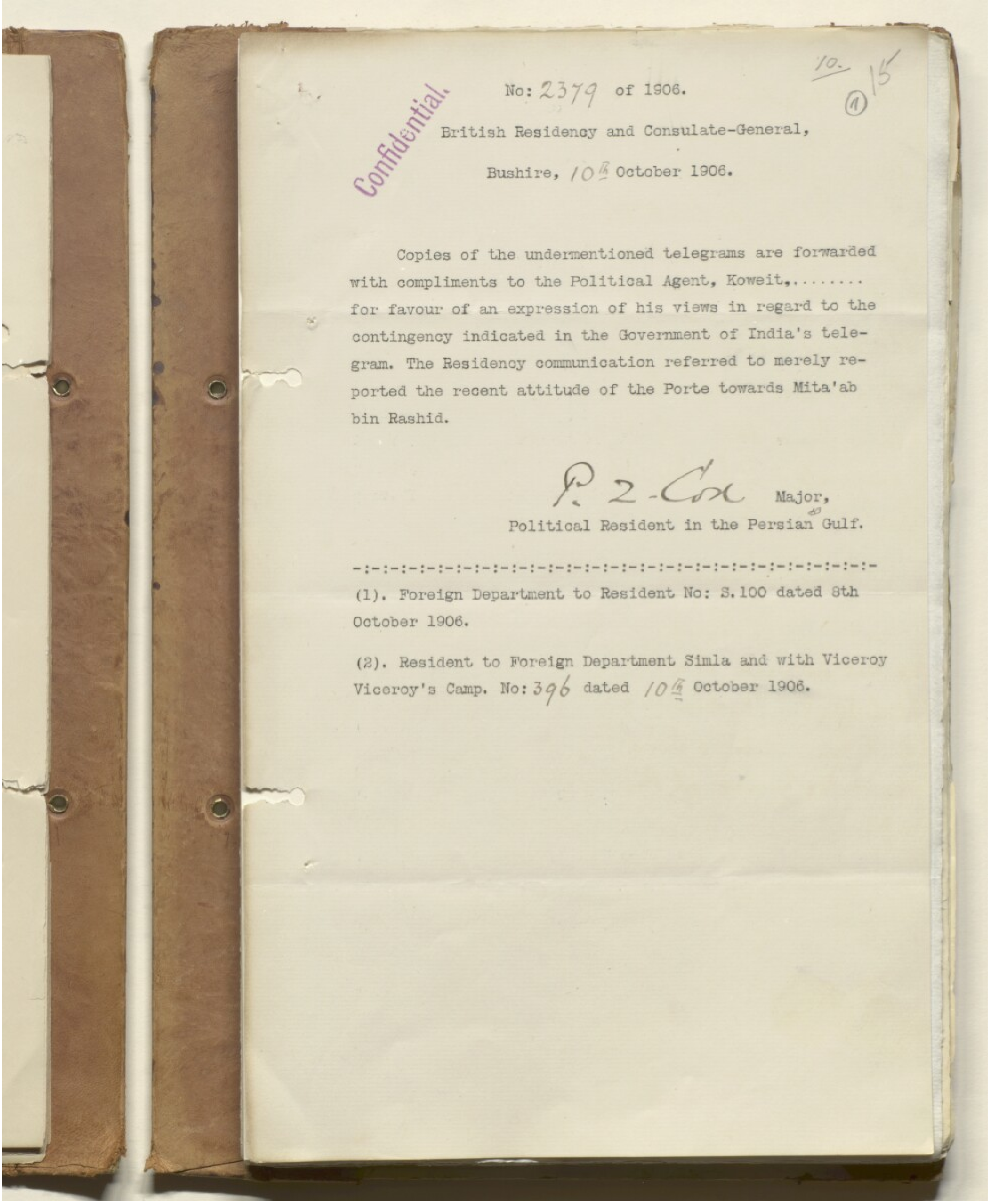
Turkish Arabia & there may be some idea of improving its capabilities in this respect, so that the trade may be carried on far from my prying eyes.

These are merely conjectures but far more likely to happen ~~that~~ than what is suggested in Hirbourne's report

Yours sincerely

S G Knox

~~Haji~~ Note not sent. Haji Abdul Aziz bin Bakar is a pearl merchant & lives behind the house of Bin Yusuf.



10.

15

⑪

Confidential.

No: 2379 of 1906.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 10th October 1906.

Copies of the undermentioned telegrams are forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit,........ for favour of an expression of his views in regard to the contingency indicated in the Government of India's telegram. The Residency communication referred to merely reported the recent attitude of the Porte towards Mita'ab bin Rashid.

P. Z. Cox Major,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

-:-

(1). Foreign Department to Resident No: S.100 dated 8th October 1906.

(2). Resident to Foreign Department Simla and with Viceroy Viceroy's Camp. No: 396 dated 10th October 1906.

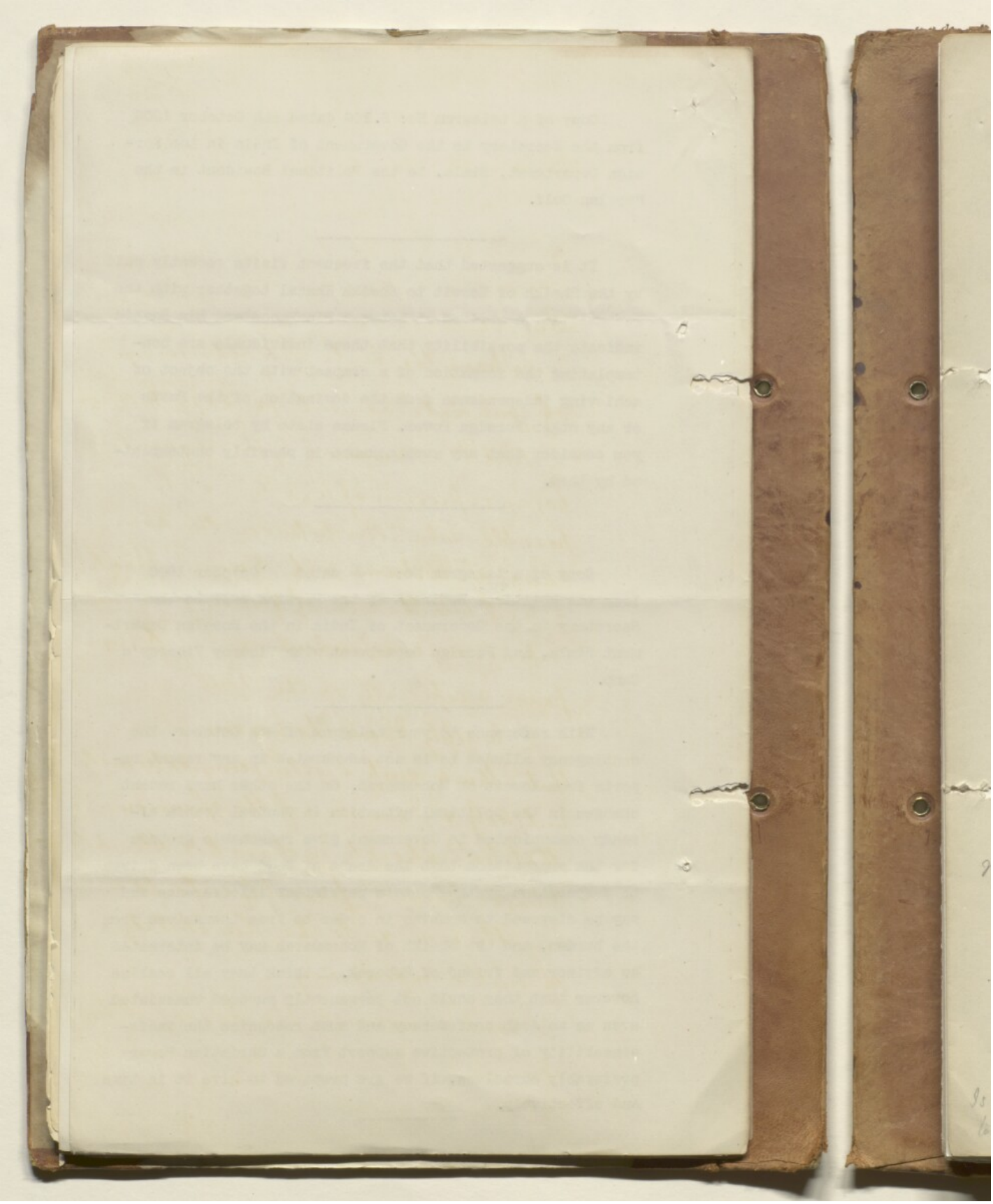
(12) 11. 16

Copy of a telegram No: S.100 dated 8th October 1906 from the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla, to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

It is suggested that the frequent visits recently paid by the Sheikh of Koweit to Sheikh Khazal together with the reconciliation arrived at between Bin Saood and Bin Rashid indicate the possibility that these individuals are contemplating the formation of a compact with the object of achieving independence from the domination of the Porte or any other Foreign Power. Please state by telegram if you consider that any such measure is possibly contemplated by them.

Copy of a telegram No: 396 dated 10th October 1906 from the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department Simla, and Foreign Department with Viceroy Viceroy's Camp.

With reference to your telegram of 8th October. The contingency alluded to is not adumbrated in any recent reports from Koweit or Mohammerah. On the other hand recent changes in the political situation in Central Arabia already communicated to Government give reasonable grounds for the supposition that the Arabs of Nejd have been driven to desperation by the Porte's persistent interference and may be disposed to combine in order to free themselves from the burden, and the Sheikh of Mohammerah may be interested as adviser and friend of Mubarek. I think they all realise however that they could not permanently succeed unassisted even as an Arab confederacy and must recognise the indispensability of protective support from a Christian Power preferably ourselves, if we are prepared to give it in time and effectively.



No 1/c of 1906

To

The Political Resident
in the P. Gulf.

Dt 18th Oct. 1906

Sir,

I have the h. to ack: the receipt of your endorsement no: 2379 dt. 10/10/6 in which I am honoured by the request for an expression of my views as to a possible combination between the four Chiefs of Muhammerah, Koweit, Riadh & Hail with the view of forming an Arab Confederacy independent of any foreign power & especially of the Porte.

2. In reply I have the honour to state that I think such a contingency extremely unlikely & I am also of the opinion that both Sheikh Mubarak & Sheikh Khazal cannot possibly entertain any illusions as to the durability of such a confederacy.

3. First & foremost, the peace patched up between Abdul Azziz bin Saood & Metaab bin Rashid seems to be

neither can?

Is there evidence to this effect

a hollow truce which will be broken on the first opportunity i.e. as soon as ever one of the conflicting parties sees his way to deal a telling blow at the strength & prestige of the other. It is true that Bin Saood would probably make considerable concessions to keep the Turk out of Hejil & El Kasim but he can have no confidence in either the ability or willingness of Metaab bin Rashid to assist him in such an undertaking. The Bin Rashid family, on the other hand, are in such low water just now that they would probably welcome Turkish interference & willingly accept a subordinate position under the Turkish authorities, provided the Bin Saood dynasty was destroyed.

Thus the two factions, apart from the jealousy which has now become a second nature to them & the long blood feud account still unsettled, are hopelessly divided on what may be called their foreign policy.

4. Indications have not been wanting to show that the bond

Is it likely that Bin Rashid will be able to do any thing at all for some time to come

How about Bin Saood's dependence on Koweit as a port and as a means of obtaining arms & munitions & Mubarak's anxiety to get protection for him

how can he come to terms with whom?

Has Mubarak the influence & power to maintain the balance between them?

that unites the families of As Saood & As Subah is a loose one & that the Bedouins who live by plunder & lightly transfer their allegiance from one party to the other, as suits their own convenience, will almost certainly cause trouble between the two chiefs, unless they both show a restraint & moderation utterly foreign to Arab nature. It is, I venture to think, only Bin Saood's dread of Turkish encroachment & dominion that has so far kept him away of offending Sheikh Mubarak.

5. Nothing serves to unite the interests of As Subah & Bin Rashid except a regard for the blessings of Commerce & the maintenance of order. These considerations are not likely to weigh heavily with either side & least of all with Bin Rashid.

6. On the other hand, it would seem that Sheikhs Khazal & Mubarak have nothing whatever to quarrel

How about Bin Saood's dependence on Koweit as a port and as a means of obtaining arms & munitions & Mubarak's anxiety to get protection for him

Is it likely that Bin Rashid will be able to at any time call from time to time on one chief to assist against the other?

Has Mubarak the influence & power to maintain the balance between them?

about, while they are both large owners of date gardens, both draw a large income from the smuggling of arms & ammunition; both ~~dread the~~ dislike the interference of the Belgian customs & both are anxious to maintain their independence, the one of Persian & the other of Turkish dominion. Each can help the other in these ~~mutual~~ questions by advice, information mutual loans, combinations to raise the price of dates or rifles &c &c. These matters alone would be quite sufficient to account for frequent conferences & I think there is no reason to attribute to them the more far reaching designs sketched out in the Government of India telegram, the impracticability of which the two chiefs would be the first to realize

Shaw de
JR.

14. 21 (15)

CONFIDENTIAL

No: 2478 of 1906.
British Residency and Consulate-General,
Bushire, 21st October 1906.

From

Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

To

Sir Louis Dane, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,
Secretary to the Government of India
in the Foreign Department,
S I M L A.

Sir,

I have the honour to report the following for the information of the Government of India.

2. It was rumoured locally some three weeks ago that certain packages for Sheikh Mubarak, overcarried to Bussorah, had been detained by the Customs there for duty, which the British India Steam Navigation Company demurred to pay. I was awaiting confirmation from Koweit or Bussorah before mentioning the incident to Government.

Mr. Consul Crow has since been good enough to send me news of it and writes that the cargo in question has been unpounded and a demand for full duty made on the ground that Koweit is Ottoman territory and has no Custom House. He adds that the Central Turkish Customs have issued strict orders for the treatment of Koweit and Bahrein as ports of the Turkish Empire for Customs purposes, and that His Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople think it undesirable to raise any question as to the Status of Koweit for the sake of the duty on two bales of goods. He has accordingly advised the British India Agents to endeavour to re-ship

the

15. (16) 22 (8)

the goods to Bombay.

3. The decision of His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople was no doubt arrived at after full consideration of the circumstances, and I am not prepared to question the wisdom of it.

On the other hand I think the Government of India will realise from the past history of our dealings with the Ruler of Koweit that this is just one of those incidents which Sheikh Mubarek most resents, and which inevitably impress him with the timidity of our support; and that as long as it is considered necessary that our policy in regard to him should follow such lines, the Government of India cannot expect Sheikh Mubarek to be whole-hearted or single-minded in his dealings with their local representatives.

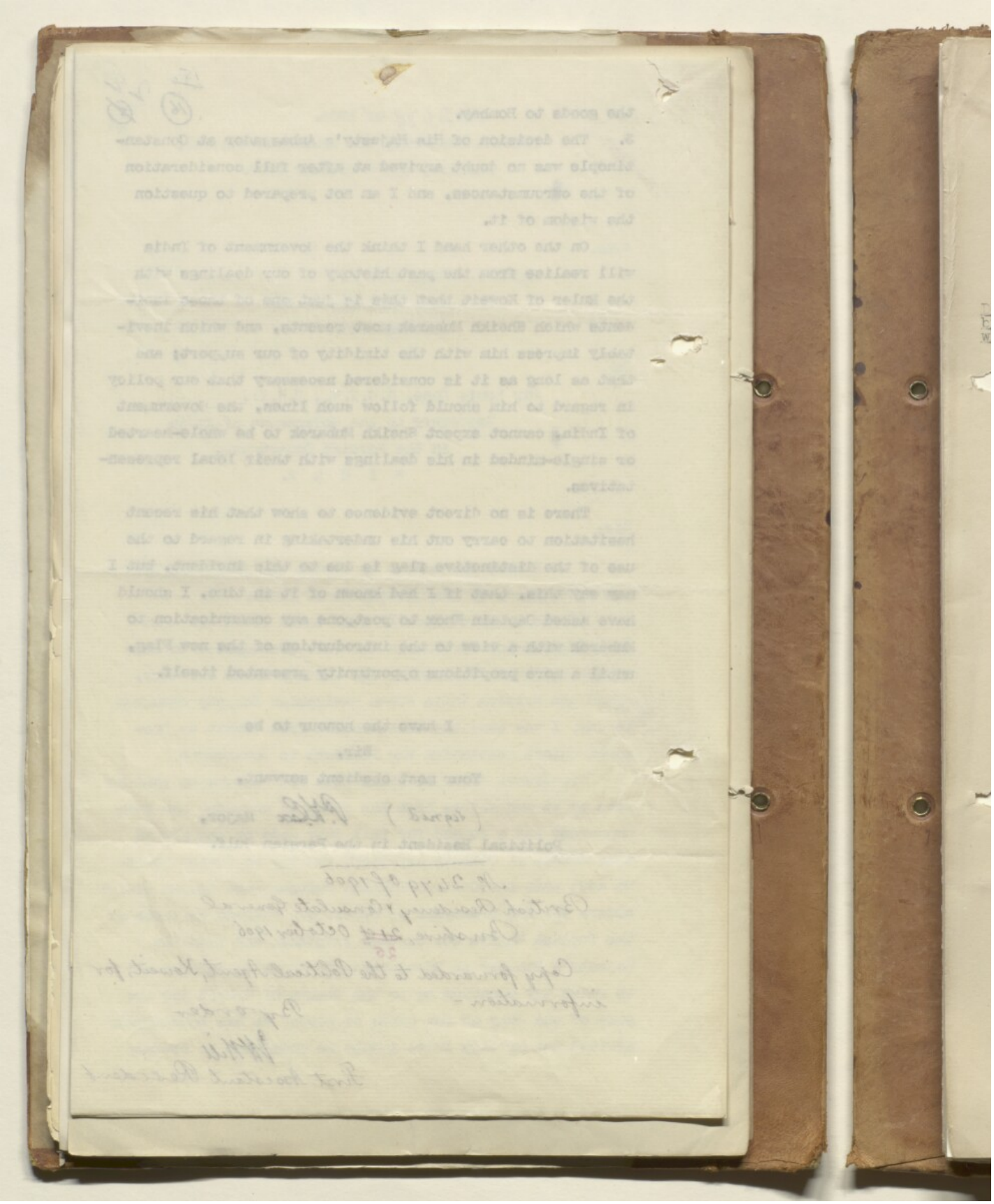
There is no direct evidence to show that his recent hesitation to carry out his undertaking in regard to the use of the distinctive flag is due to this incident, but I may say this, that if I had known of it in time, I should have asked Captain Knox to postpone any communication to Mubarek with a view to the introduction of the new Flag, until a more propitious opportunity presented itself.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,
(signed) P. K. Cox Major,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

No. 2479 of 1906
British Residency & Consulate General
Bushire, ~~21st~~ 25 October 1906

Copy forwarded to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information -

By order
W. H. Hill
First Assistant Resident



S 1910—500-3-06

16. 23 (17)

Confidential.

No. 695 of 1907.

BRITISH RESIDENCY AND CONSULATE-GENERAL:

Bushire, the 4 April 1907.

Detention of 2 bales piece-goods by Turkish Authorities at Bassora, which were destined for Koweit.

A copy of each the accompanying communications is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information, with reference to this office endorsement No. 2479 dated 25th October 1906.

page 22

By order,

H Birdwood

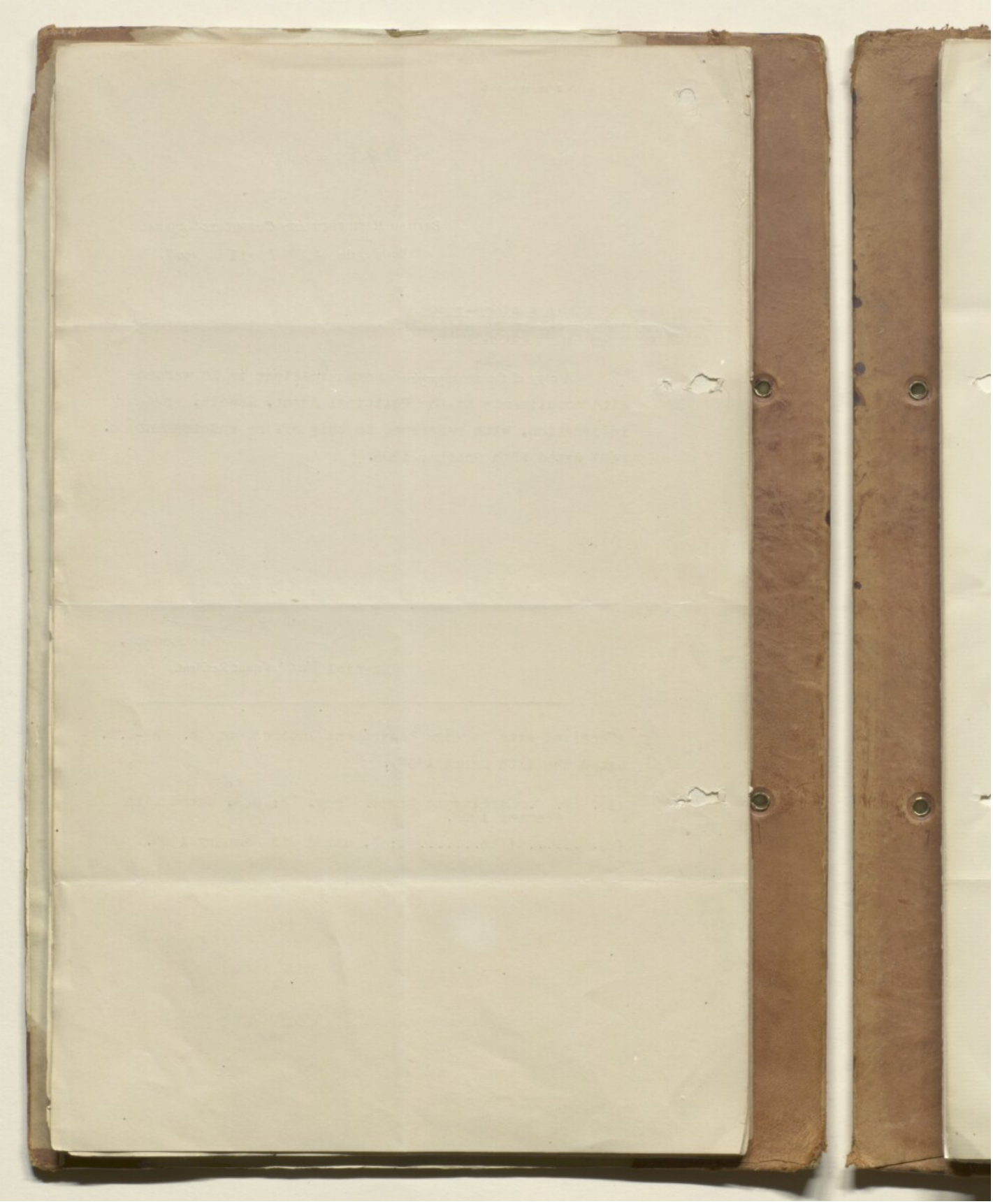
Lieutenant,

Special First Assistant Resident.

(Received with Foreign Department Endorsement No. 929-E.B. dated the 15th March 1907).

(1). Mr. G. Barclay to Sir E. Grey, No: 826, dated 27th December 1906.

(2). .....ditto.....No: 5, dated 6th January 1907.



17. 24

(Copy)

(This Document is the Property of His Britannic Majesty's Government.)

(18)

Recd:on 10-2-1907. With Pol: Secy's Letter, No.5 dated 1-2-1907.

ASIATIC TURKEY. (January 1)

Confidential. Section 2.

(24) No.1.

Mr. G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.-(Received January 1, 1907.)

(No.826.) Constantinople, December 27, 1906.

Sir,

ON the 13th September last I received a telegram from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah stating that two bales of piece goods, destined for Koweit and overcarried to Bussorah in a British Indian steamer, had been detained at the custom-house on the ground that Koweit was a Turkish port and had no custom-house, and that, therefore, goods must pay import duties at Bussorah. The Director of Customs at Bagdad was said to be acting in this matter on the orders of the Central Customs.

As it did not seem desirable to raise the question of the status of Koweit for the sake of so apparently small a matter, I instructed Mr. Crow to endeavour to induce the agent to obtain permission to reship the bales to Bombay.

I heard no more of the matter and consequently assumed that it had been settled, but having observed from your despatch No.539 of the 15th instant that the bales of goods were destined for the Sheik himself, and that he evidently felt strongly on the subject, I telegraphed to Mr. Crow to inquire what had happened. Mr. Crow replied on the 26th instant to the effect that the agent had failed to induce the local Turkish authorities to allow the reshipment of the goods, and that the matter had been referred to the Director of Customs at Bagdad.

Had I known that the goods were consigned to Sheik Mubarek himself, I should have asked for your instructions in

in the first instance. As the matter stands, if the Turkish authorities persist in their demand for payment of duty and refuse to allow reshipment, I should be glad to learn whether you would wish me to make representations to the Sublime Porte on the subject, insisting on the fact that Koweit is not a Turkish port, or whether I should simply ask that permission may be given for the goods to be reshipped. In the latter case it would no doubt be obvious to the Turkish Government that we were endeavouring to evade the main question of the status of Koweit, and such evasion would very possibly strengthen them in their attitude.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. BARCLAY.

(2715 a-2)

19. 26 (20)

(Copy)

Recd: on 10-2-1907. With Pol: Secy's Letter, No. 5 dated 1-2-1907.

ASIATIC TURKEY. January.

CONFIDENTIAL. Section 1.

(521) No. 1.

Mr. G. Barclay to Sir Edward Grey.-(Recd: January 6.)

(No. 5.)

(Telegraphic.) P. Constantinople. January 6th 1907.

Permission obtained by Consul at Bussorah for Koweit goods referred to in my despatch No. 826 of the 27th December 1906, to be returned to Kurrachee as I suggested.

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page 24

20. 27 (21)

Confidential.

No. 396 of 1907.

Office of the Political Agent, Koweit.

Koweit 26th July 1907.

From

Major S.G.Knox, I.A.,
Political Agent, Koweit,

To

Major P.Z.Cox, C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf,
Bushire.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that at a visit paid to me by Sheikh Mobarak this morning he informed me that certain Koweit merchants, subjects of his and trading in Basra, were being pressed by the Turkish authorities to take out certificates of nationality, presumably Turkish.

2. Failing compliance, they were threat--ened with being expelled the town.

3. Sheikh Mobarak said that he had told these men that on no account should they accept such certificates and that they should prefer expulsion and come to him for orders and redress.

4. I suggested to the Sheikh that it would be advisable for me to consult you on the subject and the Sheikh replied that that was what he wished.

5. The Sheikh specially instanced the case of Hamad ul Khalid who is one of the brothers, partners in the firm of El Khathair. This firm has extensive dealings all over the Gulf, including Basra, and in India and theoretically, it would not seem that

that there were any very grave objections to the Basra partner taking out a certificate of Turkish nationality, if the result would be to facilitate his business relations and to induce the Basra authorities to leave him in peace. It would not affect the general question of Koweit independence, complete or partial, at all.

6. At the same time, Sheikh Mobarak will not understand this and evidently feels very strongly on the subject and he may be aware of difficulties and indirect pressure that might be brought to bear if the point were conceded.

7. I have therefore the honour to solicit the favour of instructions as to the reply to be given to Sheikh Mobarak viz: what advice should be offered to him. I would also express my regret at the vague indications which are all that I have been able to give as to the difficulty in which Sheikh Mobarak finds himself. It did not seem to me advisable to press him to be more explicit, until I knew what my attitude should be on the general question.

8. The merchant is in a difficult position through no fault of his own. If he complies with the Turkish orders he is in difficulty with Sheikh Mobarak. If he refuses, the Turks expel him. If this view of the question were placed before the Basra authorities by H.B.M's Consul, acting under instructions, they might be induced to recognize the injudiciousness of the order and the fact that non-compliance with the order would hardly justify the expulsion of a peaceful trader.

9. Before however, such a remonstrance was addressed, it would be necessary to obtain some evidence, more explicit than what is at present available, of the nature of the certificate and the extent of pressure applied to induce the merchant to

(23) 22. 29

take them out. Such evidence would not, I trust, be difficult to obtain through the Sheikh of Koweit, if it is considered advisable to contest the Turkish claim.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Major,

Political Agent, Koweit.

23. (24) 30

Bushire,

6th August 1907.

My dear Knox,

page 27

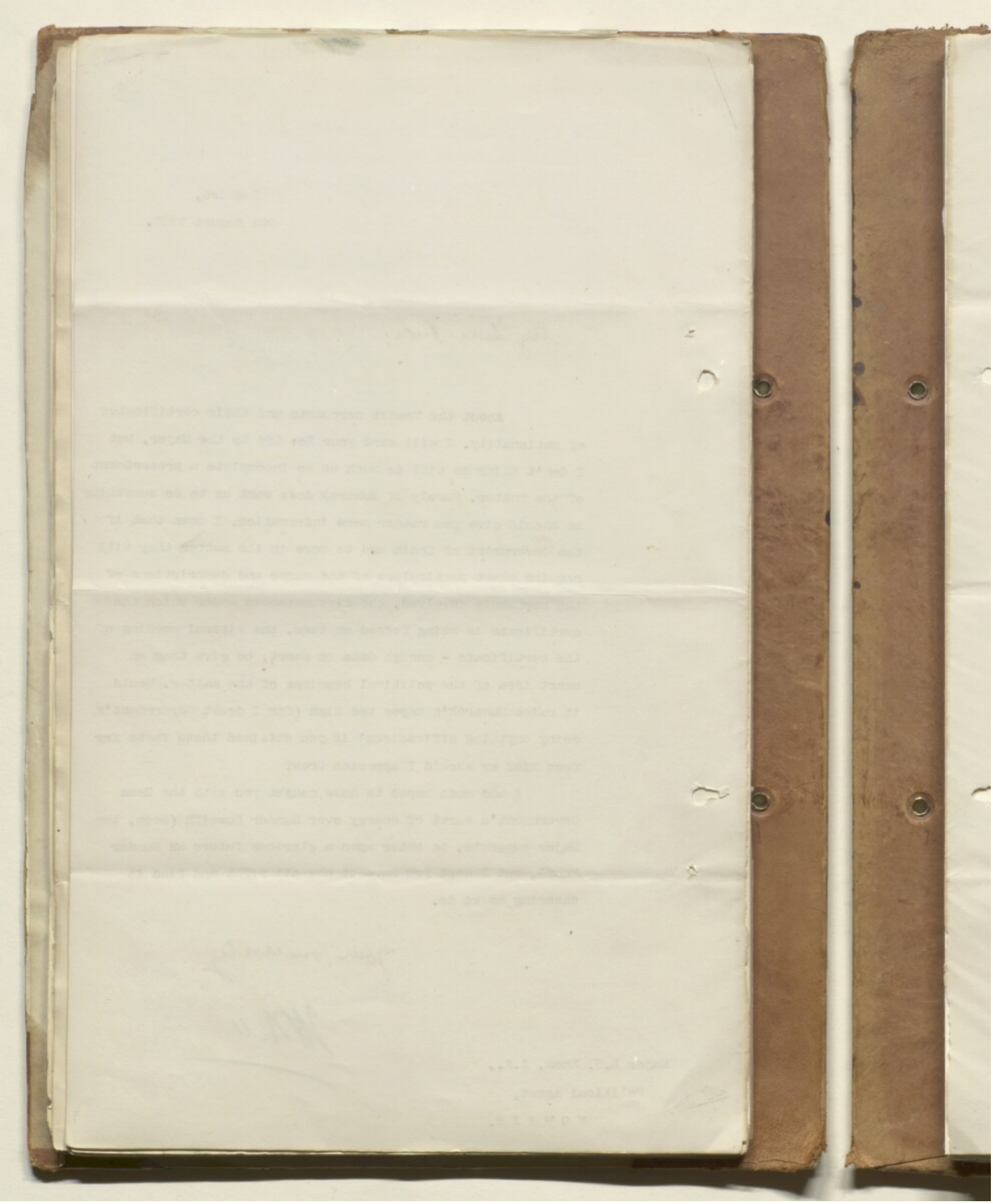
About the Koweit merchants and their certificates of nationality. I will send your No: 396 to the Major, but I don't think he will do much on so incomplete a presentment of the matter. Surely if Mubarek does want us to do something he should give you rather more information. I mean that if the Government of India are to move in the matter they will require exact particulars of the names and descriptions of the merchants involved, the circumstances under which the certificate is being forced on them, the literal wording of the certificate - enough data in short, to give them an exact idea of the political bearings of the matter. Would it raise Mubarek's hopes too high (for I doubt Government's doing anything efficacious) if you obtained these facts ~~for~~ from him? or should I approach Crow?

I had much hoped to have caught you with the Home Government's burst of energy over Bunder Shwaikh (soon, the Major suggests, to enter upon a glorious future as Bunder Knox), but I hope you have it now all right and find it cheering, as we do.

Yours sincerely

W.H.M.

Major S.G. Knox, I.A.,
Political Agent,
K O W E I T.



Koweit. 24.
9/8/7.

31
(25)

page 30

Dear Bill,

Thanks for yours of 6th re Koweit merchants & certificates of nationality. I quite sympathise with your feeling re the sketchy nature of the information sent in. Mubarak puts these things out like a feeler & I treat them in the same way. We only want to know here whether there is any use in taking up the matter if facts are as indicated viz. Turks are pressing Koweit subjects to take out certificates of nationality. Mubarak hates a rebuff & does not like to move in a matter without a reasonable prospect of success.

You positively terrify me with your light hearted references to our project. I haven't even told my pillow. I have Henning's

maps & don't want any experts yet. It is cheering but I dare not rejoice.

32v

Yours sincerely

S Nicol

(26)

26. 34

25.
3rd Sept 07. 33
(26A)

Dear Major, Cox

With reference to the question of Turkish nationality certificates for Koweit merchants, I have spoken once or twice to the Sheikh on the subject & I gather that the matter is not pressing. He tells me that he will be going to Fao next week &

(26)

26. 34

will make further enquiries & see if action on our part is required. He will also try & obtain a sample certificate

Yours sincerely

A Nicol

27.
(27) 35

Office of the Political Agent , Koweit .

CONFIDENTIAL No: 296 of 1908 .

From Major S.G.Knox ,I.A.
Political Agent , Koweit .

To Major P.Z.Cox , C.I.E.,I.A.,
Resident & H.B.M's Consul-General in the Persian Gulf
Bushire .

Dated Koweit 10/6/08.

Sir ,

I have the honour to report that , at an interview with Sheikh Mobarak the other day the latter asked me what were the chances of the British Government according their protection to Sheikh S'adun of the Muntifich .

2 . I replied that I was unaware of the views of my Government on this question and could not express an opinion .

3 . The Sheikh continued to press for an ~~private~~ ~~express~~ expression of my private opinion on the reception such overtures were likely to meet with and I informed him that he could perhaps form some idea of my personal opinion by the reply that I gave to a message from Sheikh Sa'adun who expressed a wish to see me . The reply was that I could not understand what business a messenger from Shek Sa'adun could have with me , when the Muntafich lived in Basra walayat and any business that they might have with the English would naturally go through the British Consul at Basra . I trust that the reply given may be approved .

I have the honour to be ,
Sir ,
Your most obedient servant ,

Major ,
Political Agent ,Koweit .

Office of the Political Agent , Kuwait .

CONFIDENTIAL No: 298 of 1908 .

From Major S.G.Knox , I.A.

Political Agent , Kuwait .

To Major P.Z.Cox , C.I.E.,I.A.,

President & H.B.M's Consul-General in the Persian Gulf

Bushire .

Dated Kuwait 10\6\08.

Sir ,

I have the honour to report that , at an interview with Sheikh Mobarak the other day the latter asked me what were the chances of the British Government according their protection to Sheikh S'adun of the Muntafiah .

2 . I replied that I was unaware of the views of my Government on this question and could not express an opinion .

3 . The Sheikh continued to press for ~~expression~~ expression of my private opinion on the reception such overtures were likely to meet with and informed him that he could perhaps form some idea of my personal opinion by the reply that I gave to a message from Sheikh Sa'adun who expressed a wish to see me . The reply was that I could not understand what business a messenger from Sheikh Sa'adun could have with me , when the Muntafiah lived in Basra wilayat and any business that they might have with the English would naturally go through the British Consul at Basra . ~~&~~ I trust that the reply given may be approved .

I have the honour to be ,

Sir ,

Your most obedient servant ,

Major ,

Political Agent ,Kuwait .

CONFIDENTIAL.

28. 36 (28)

No. 1904 of 1908.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 17 June 1908.

To

The Political Agent,

Koweit,

page 35

Sir,

I have the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 296 of June 10th reporting the reply given to Sheikh Mubarek as to British protection for Sheikh Sa'adun of the Muntifich, and to state that your reply appears to be the correct one. Copies of your letter are however being sent to the Resident and the Government of India.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Captain,

First Assistant Resident.

(In charge current duties).

Note on
Nagaimish, alluded to in Sheikh
Mubarak's letter re Fao-Ma'amir
controversy.

Nagaimish bin Brahim bin
Nagaimish is a Dōsiri & a man
of about 60 years old. His father
was agent of Nāsir Pasha of
the Muntafich & he, in his turn,
became the agent of the sons of the
late Nasir Pasha. He was brought
up in Basra & is now called
Sheikh al Ma'āmir

29/6/8.

He is reported a man, able in affairs,
resembling somewhat Sughar bin
Ghanim.

Copy taken for
file concerned.
[illegible] 5-8-09

29.
37
(29)

No. 3580 of 1908.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

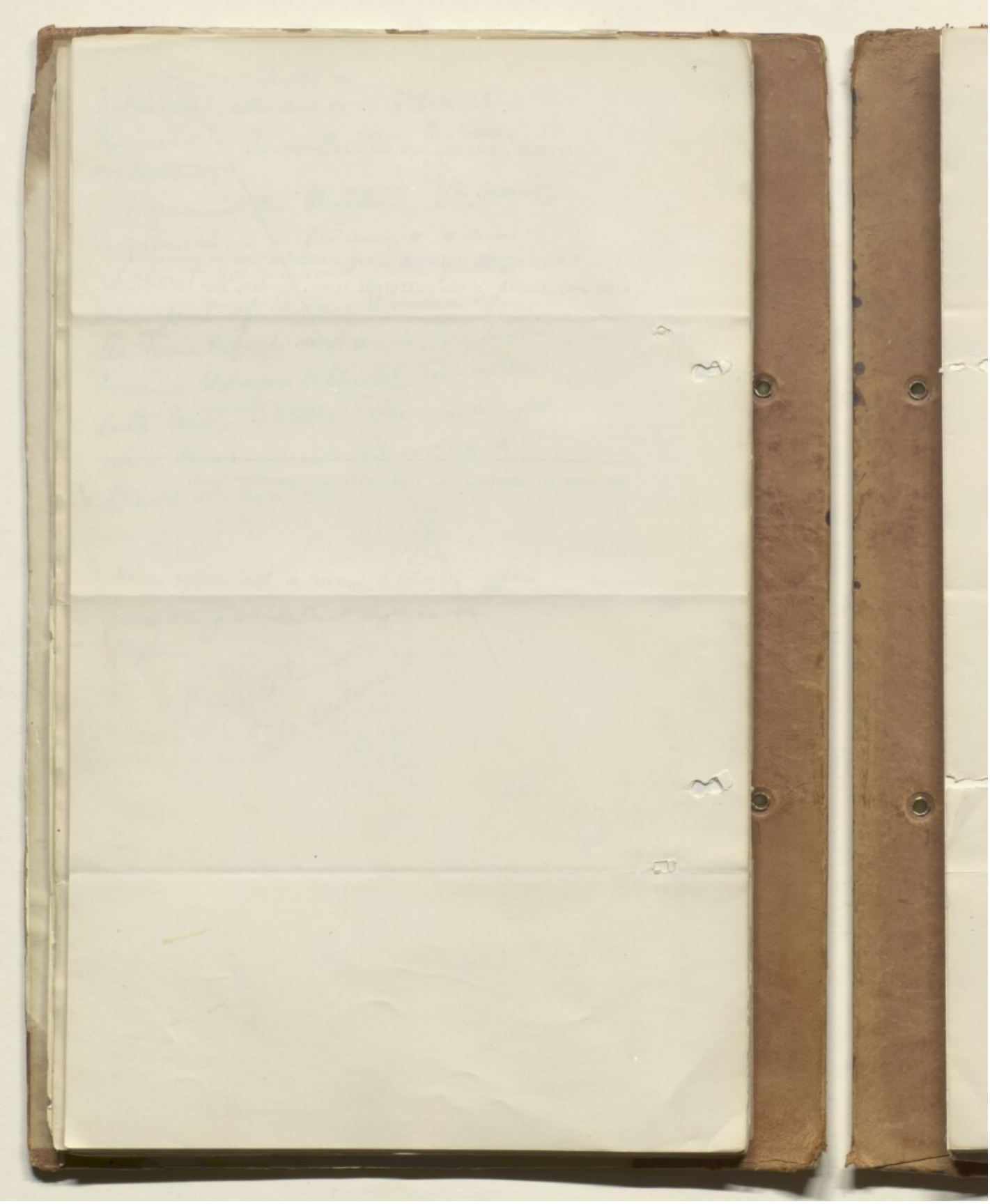
Bushire, 23rd December 1908.

A copy of the undermentioned communication is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information.

By Order,

M. D. Peel Lieutenant,
Second Assistant Resident.

Resident to Foreign. No. 3463 dated 9th December 1908.



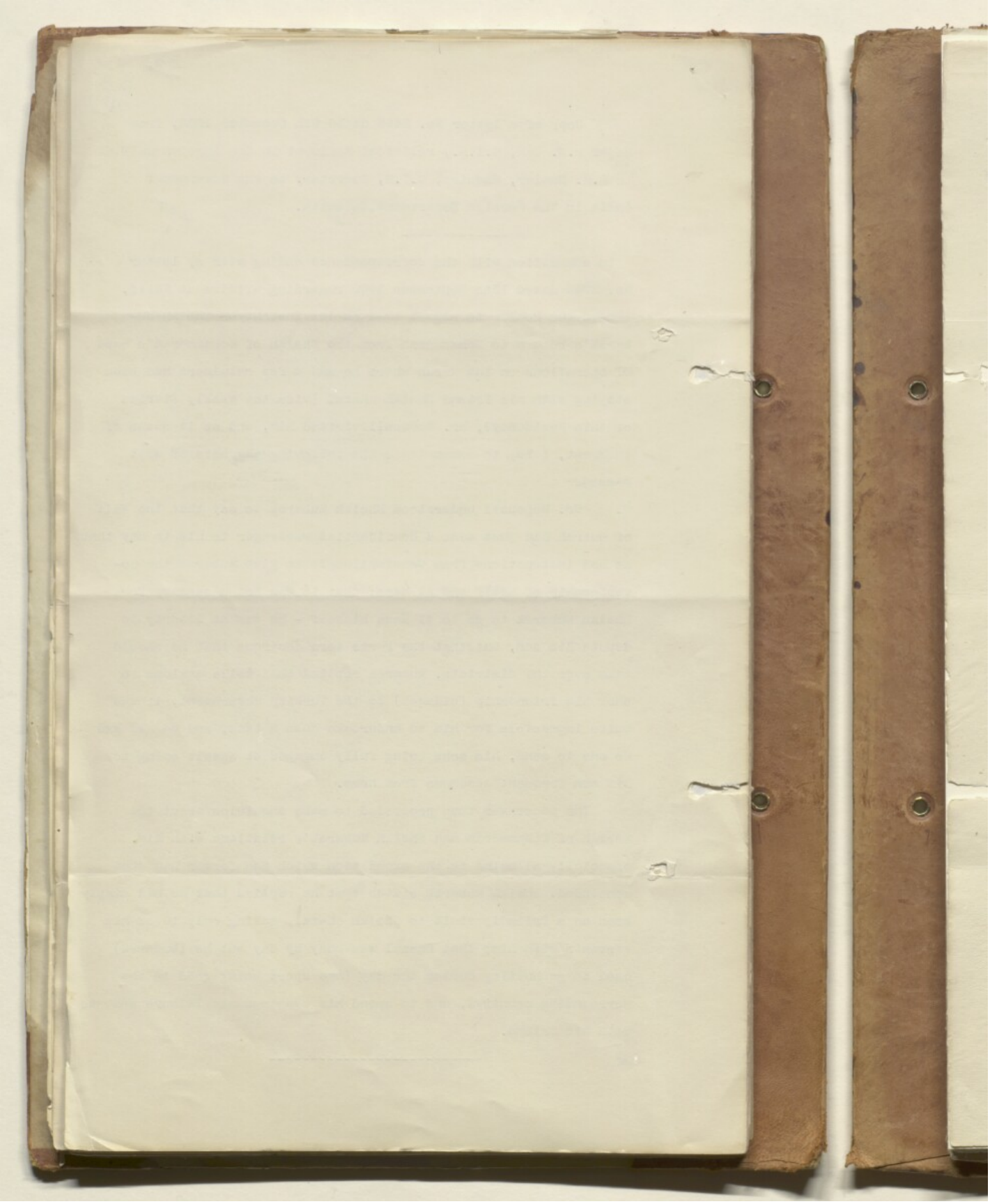
30 38 (30)

Copy of a letter No. 3463 dated 9th December 1908, from Major P.Z. Cox, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, to S.H. Butler, Esquire, C.I.E, Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Calcutta.

In connection with the correspondence ending with my letter No. 2745 dated 13th September 1908 regarding affairs at Katif, I have the honour to report that on 1st instant on Sheikh Mubarek's return to Mohammerah from the Sheikh of Mohammerah's base of operations on the Karun where he and a few retainers had been staying with his friend Sheikh Khazal (vide the weekly Diaries of this Residency), Mr. McDouall visited him, and as it seems of interest, I beg to communicate the following ~~thing~~ note of what passed.

2. Mr. McDouall understood Sheikh Mubarek to say that the Wali of Busreh had just sent a confidential messenger to him to say that he had instructions from Constantinople to give Mubarek the Governorship of Katif and Al Hasa; that it was not necessary for Sheikh Mubarek to go to Al Hasa himself - he was at liberty to depute his son, but that the Porte were desirous that he should take over the districts. Mubarek replied that while anxious to show his friendship (sidaqeh) to the Turkish Government, it was quite impossible for him to undertake such a task, and he had ~~had~~ no one to send, his sons being fully engaged at Koweit owing to his own frequent absences from home.

The messenger then proceeded to make enquiries about the Sheikh of Mohammerah and Sheikh Mubarek's relations with him, especially alluding to the expedition which the former had just concluded. Sheikh Mubarek states that he replied that he had simply been on a friendly visit to Sheikh Khazal, taking only 10 of his servants with him; that Khazal was busy by day but he (Mubarek) used to go hunting during the day (the sport being good in the surrounding country), and to spend his evenings and leisure moments with his friend.



Fr. P.A. Koweit.

31. 39

(31)

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 3463, dated Bushire, the 9th (received 22nd) December 1908 (Confidential).

From—Major P. Z. Cox, C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

In connection with the correspondence ending with my letter No. 2745, dated 13th September 1908, regarding affairs at Katif, I have the honour to report that, on the 1st instant, on Sheikh Mubarak's return to Mohammerah from the Sheikh of Mohammerah's base of operations on the Karun where he and a few retainers had been staying with his friend Sheikh Khazal (*vide* the weekly diaries of this Residency), Mr. McDouall visited him, and as it seems of interest, I beg to communicate the following note of what passed.

2. Mr. McDouall understood Sheikh Mubarak to say that the Wali of Basrah had just sent a confidential messenger to him to say that he had instructions from Constantinople to give Mubarak the Governorship of Katif and Al Hasa; that it was not necessary for Sheikh Mubarak to go to Al Hasa himself—he was at liberty to depute his son, but that the Porte were desirous that he should take over the districts. Mubarak replied that while anxious to show his friendship (sidaqeh) to the Turkish Government, it was quite impossible for him to undertake such a task, and he had no one to send, his sons being fully engaged at Koweit owing to his own frequent absences from home.

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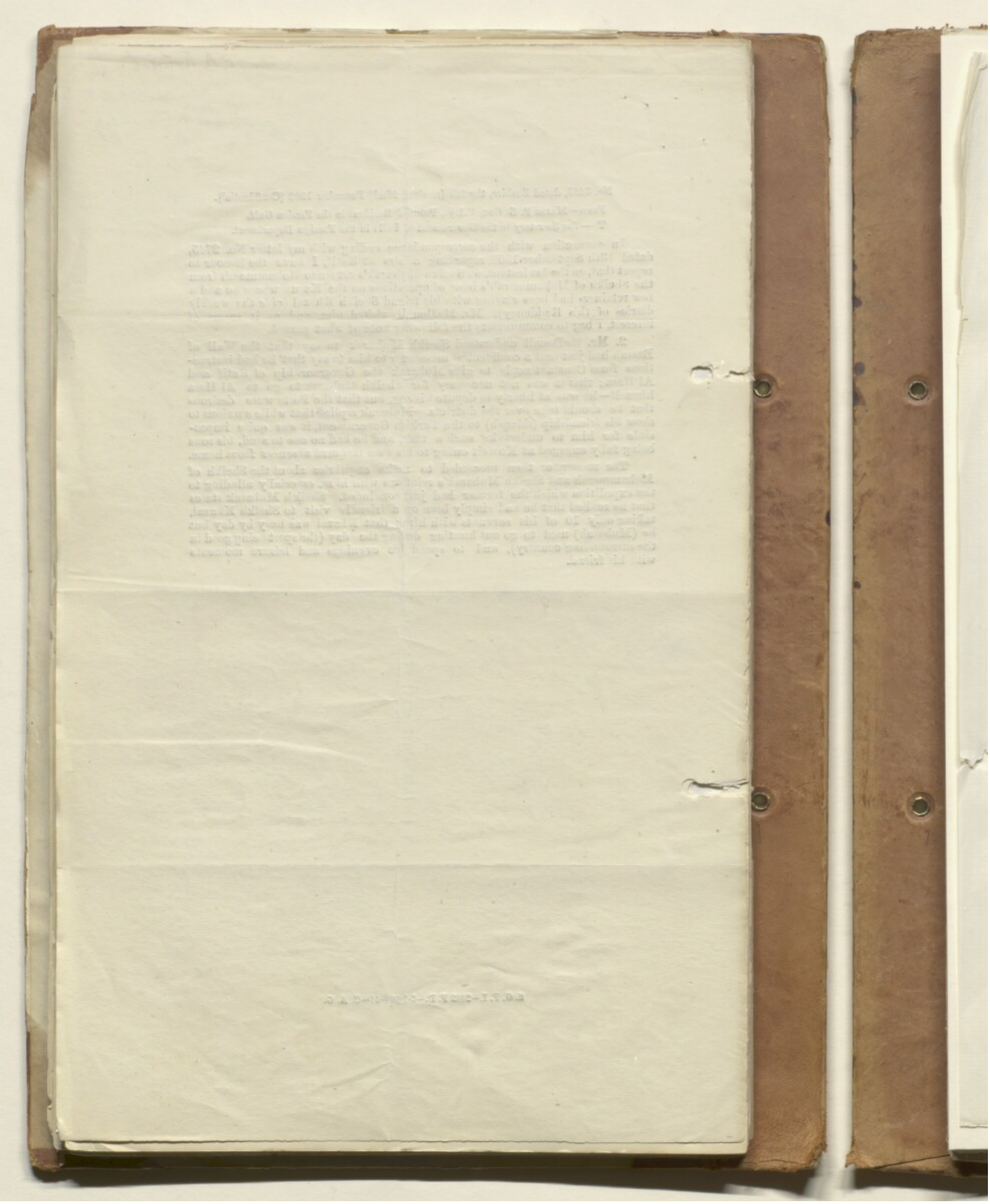
S. G. P. I.—2642 F. D.—6-1-09—44—C. A. G.



32.

Confidential.

No. 48 of 1909.

Office of the Political Agent, Koweit.

Koweit 27th January 1909.

From

Major S.G.Knox, I.A.,
Political Agent, Koweit,

To

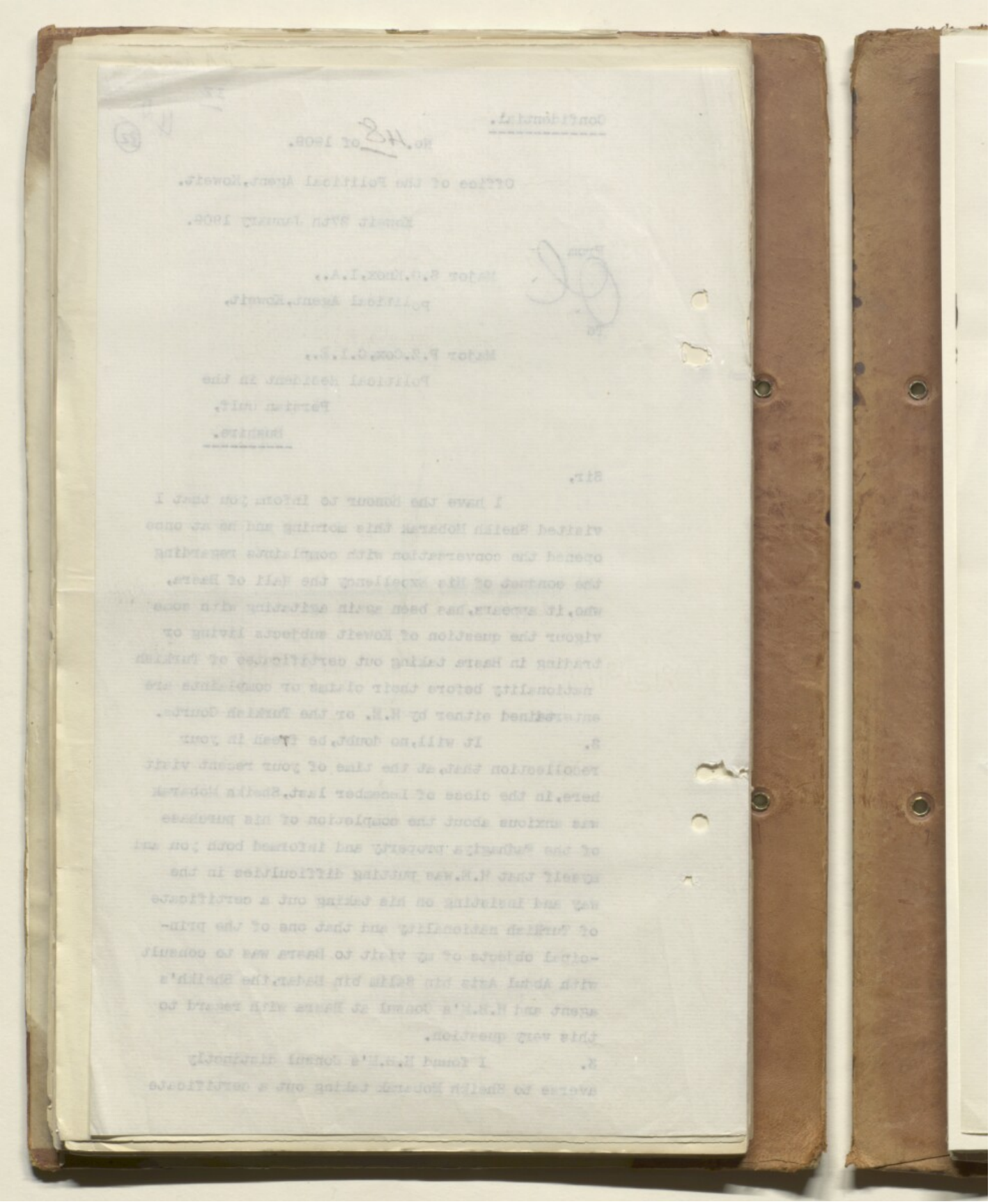
Major P.Z.Cox, C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf,
Bushire.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that I visited Sheikh Mobarak this morning and he at once opened the conversation with complaints regarding the conduct of His Excellency the Wali of Basra, who, it appears, has been again agitating with some vigour the question of Koweit subjects living or trading in Basra taking out certificates of Turkish nationality before their claims or complaints are entertained either by H.E. or the Turkish Courts.

2. It will, no doubt, be fresh in your recollection that, at the time of your recent visit here, in the close of December last, Sheikh Mobarak was anxious about the completion of his purchase of the Fadhagiya property and informed both you and myself that H.E. was putting difficulties in the way and insisting on his taking out a certificate of Turkish nationality and that one of the prin-cipal objects of my visit to Basra was to consult with Abdul Aziz bin Salim bin Badar, the Sheikh's agent and H.B.M's Consul at Basra with regard to this very question.

3. I found H.B.M's Consul distinctly averse to Sheikh Mobarak taking out a certificate



of Turkish nationality at any rate on this account, and disapproving generally of H.E.the Wali's atti--tude on this question, as it would appear that H.E.has also been giving trouble of a similar kind to British subjects, proprietors of land in Turkish territory. His Excellency's attitude appeared, so I understood, to H.B.M's Consul of doubtful legality and with special reference to Koweit, calculated to raise inconvenient questions better left undisturbed.

4. Abdul Aziz bin Salim bin Badar was distinctly hopeful that the Wali was weakening in his opposition to the sale and that the matter would be eventually adjusted to Sheikh Mobarak's satisfaction.

5. It would now appear from Sheikh Mobarak's latest conversation with me on the subject that Abdul Aziz bin Salim bin Badar was too sanguine and that the question of certificates of Turkish nationality is being raised in an acute form. file XIII page 167

6. This form is however not altogether novel and was reported in my letter No.396, dated the 26th July 1907 to your address, when Sheikh Mobarak reported that certain Koweit merchants trading in Basra had been warned by the then Wali of Basra to take out certificates of Turkish na--tionality or they would be expelled the town. Sheikh Mobarak's information was at the time too vague and scanty for any further action to be taken thereon and the matter came to rest of it--self, as the especial merchant of whom mention was made, Isa bin Abdul Jalil, left Basra to suit his own convenience and no further questions were asked about him.

7. Sheikh Mobarak now informs me that one Hammad al Khalid, a member of the firm of Al Khathair, one of our biggest pearl merchants, had

34. (34) 42

a claim of £T1000 which he sought to bring before H.E.the Wali of Basra for redress.His Excellency absolutely refused to entertain the claim,until Hammad took out a certificate of Turkish natio--nality.Hammad,so it is reported,took out the cer--tificate,as otherwise he would have been unable to recover the debt.

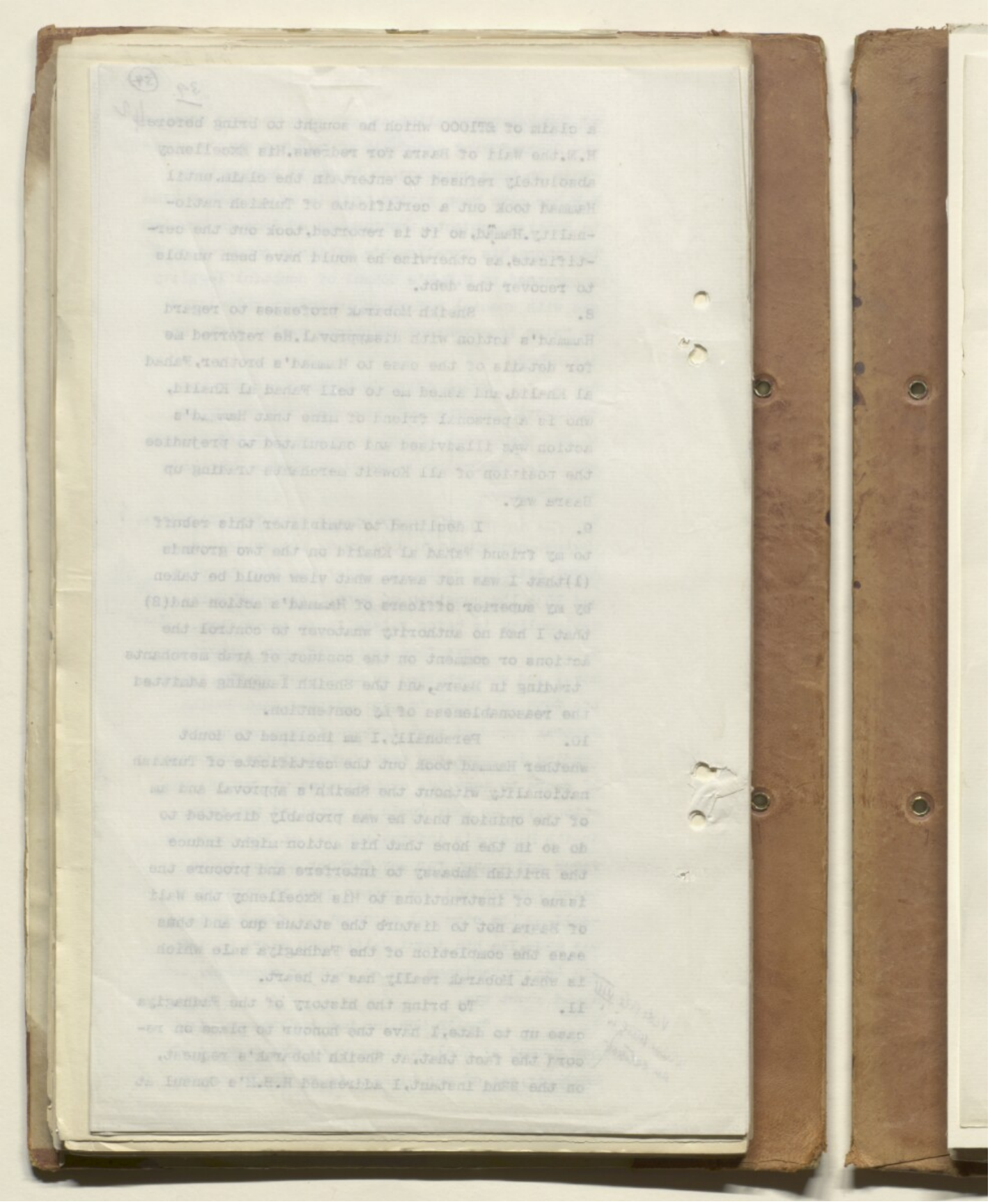
8. Sheikh Mobarak professes to regard Hammad's action with disapproval.He referred me for details of the case to Hammad's brother,Fahad al Khalid,and asked me to tell Fahad al Khalid, who is a personal friend of mine that Hammad's action was illadvised and calculated to prejudice the position of all Koweit merchants trading up Basra way.

9. I declined to administer this rebuff to my friend Fahad al Khalid on the two grounds (1)that I was not aware what view would be taken by my superior officers of Hammad's action and(2) that I had no authority whatever to control the actions or comment on the conduct of Arab merchants trading in Basra,and the Sheikh laughing admitted the reasonableness of my contention.

10. Personally,I am inclined to doubt whether Hammad took out the certificate of Turkish nationality without the Sheikh's approval and am of the opinion that he was probably directed to do so in the hope that his action might induce the British Embassy to interfere and procure the issue of instructions to His Excellency the Wali of Basra not to disturb the status quo and thus ease the completion of the Fadhagiya sale which is what Mobarak really has at heart.

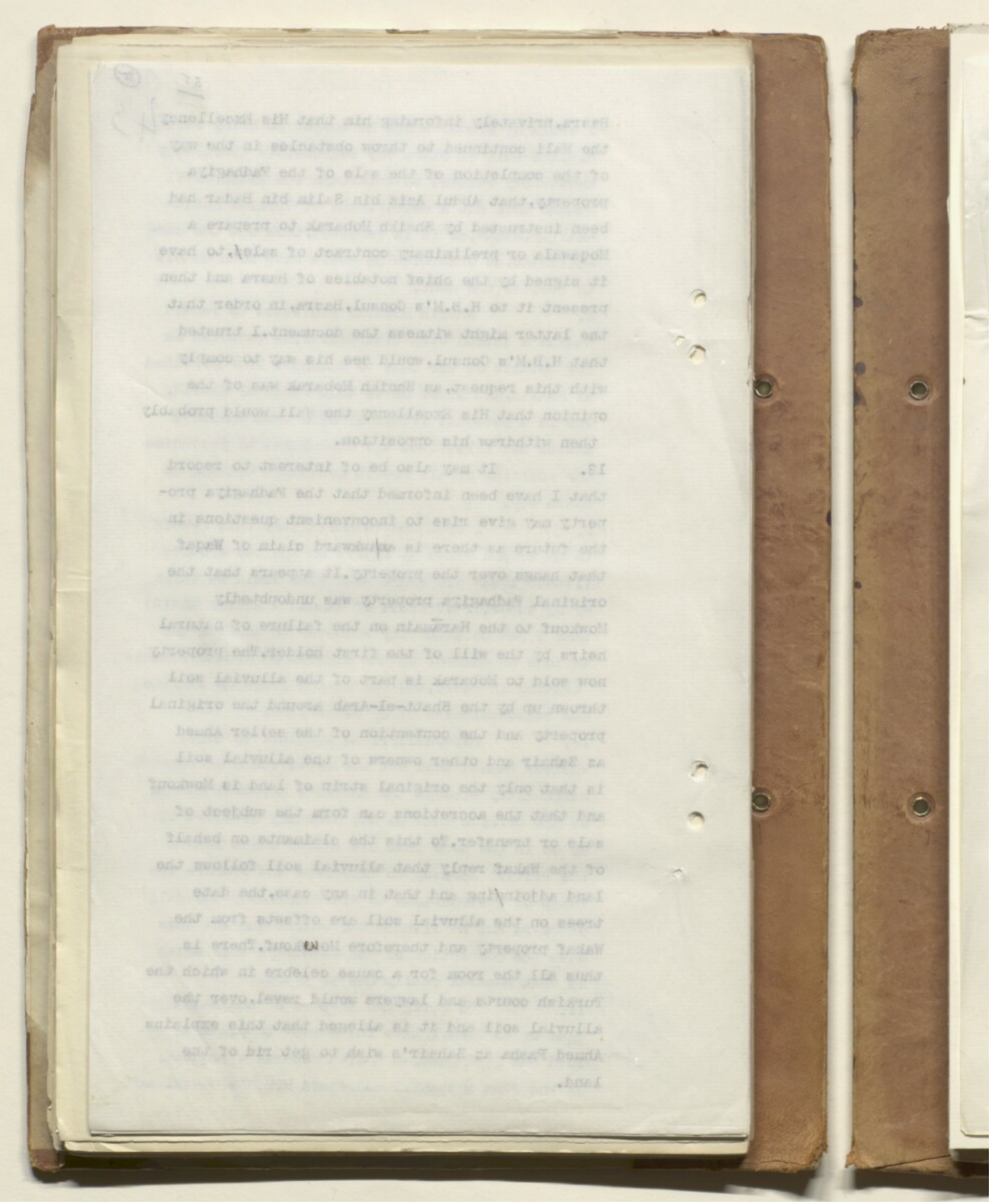
11. To bring the history of the Fadhagiya case up to date,I have the honour to place on re-cord the fact that,at Sheikh Mobarak's request, on the 32nd instant,I addressed H.B.M's Consul at

Vide File VIII where there is an extract



Basra, privately informing him that His Excellency the Wali continued to throw obstacles in the way of the completion of the sale of the Fadhagiya property, that Abdul Aziz bin Salim bin Badar had been instructed by Sheikh Mobarak to prepare a Moqawala or preliminary contract of sale, to have it signed by the chief notables of Basra and then present it to H.B.M's Consul, Basra, in order that the latter might witness the document. I trusted that H.B.M's Consul, would see his way to comply with this request, as Sheikh Mobarak was of the opinion that His Excellency the Wali would probably then withdraw his opposition.

12. It may also be of interest to record that I have been informed that the Fadhagiya property may give rise to inconvenient questions in the future as there is an awkward claim of Waqaf that hangs over the property. It appears that the original Fadhagiya property was undoubtedly Mowkouf to the Harāmain on the failure of natural heirs by the will of the first holder. The property now sold to Mobarak is part of the alluvial soil thrown up by the Shatt-el-Arab around the original property and the contention of the seller Ahmed az Zahair and other owners of the alluvial soil is that only the original strip of land is Mowkouf and that the accretions can form the subject of sale or transfer. To this the claimants on behalf of the Wakaf reply that alluvial soil follows the land adjoining and that in any case, the date trees on the alluvial soil are offsets from the Wakaf property and therefore Mowkouf. There is thus all the room for a cause celebre in which the Turkish courts and lawyers would revel over the alluvial soil and it is alleged that this explains Ahmed Pasha az Zahair's wish to get rid of the land.



36. (36) 44

13. I shall endeavour to procure, as Sheikh Mobarak suggests, the details of this particular case from Fahad al Khalid and will forward them without delay. I further anticipate considerable benefit from the approaching visit of H.B.M's Consul, Basra, to Koweit to discuss this and pending questions but, in the meantime, I would suggest, with all deference, for your consideration, whether it would not be possible for higher authority to in--timate through the usual channels, to His Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople that His Ex--cellency the Wali of Basra appears to be raising in an acute form the question of the natio-nality of the people of Koweit, more especially in regard to the purchase by Sheikh Mobarak of the Fadhagiya property from Ahmed Pasha az Zahair, that his activity in this matter appears to be a depart--ure from the maintenance of the status quo which it is the clearly expressed object of both Govern--ments to observe and that it is further calculated to disturb the existing harmonious relations be--tween Sheikh Mobarak of Koweit and the local Ottoman authorities of Basra and that such a dis--turbance would be greatly regretted by H.B.M's Government. If general instructions could be sent to His Excellency to deal with Koweit claims and cases without insisting on a precise definition of the petitioners' status or nationality, all that Sheikh Mobarak is contending for would pro-bably be obtained.

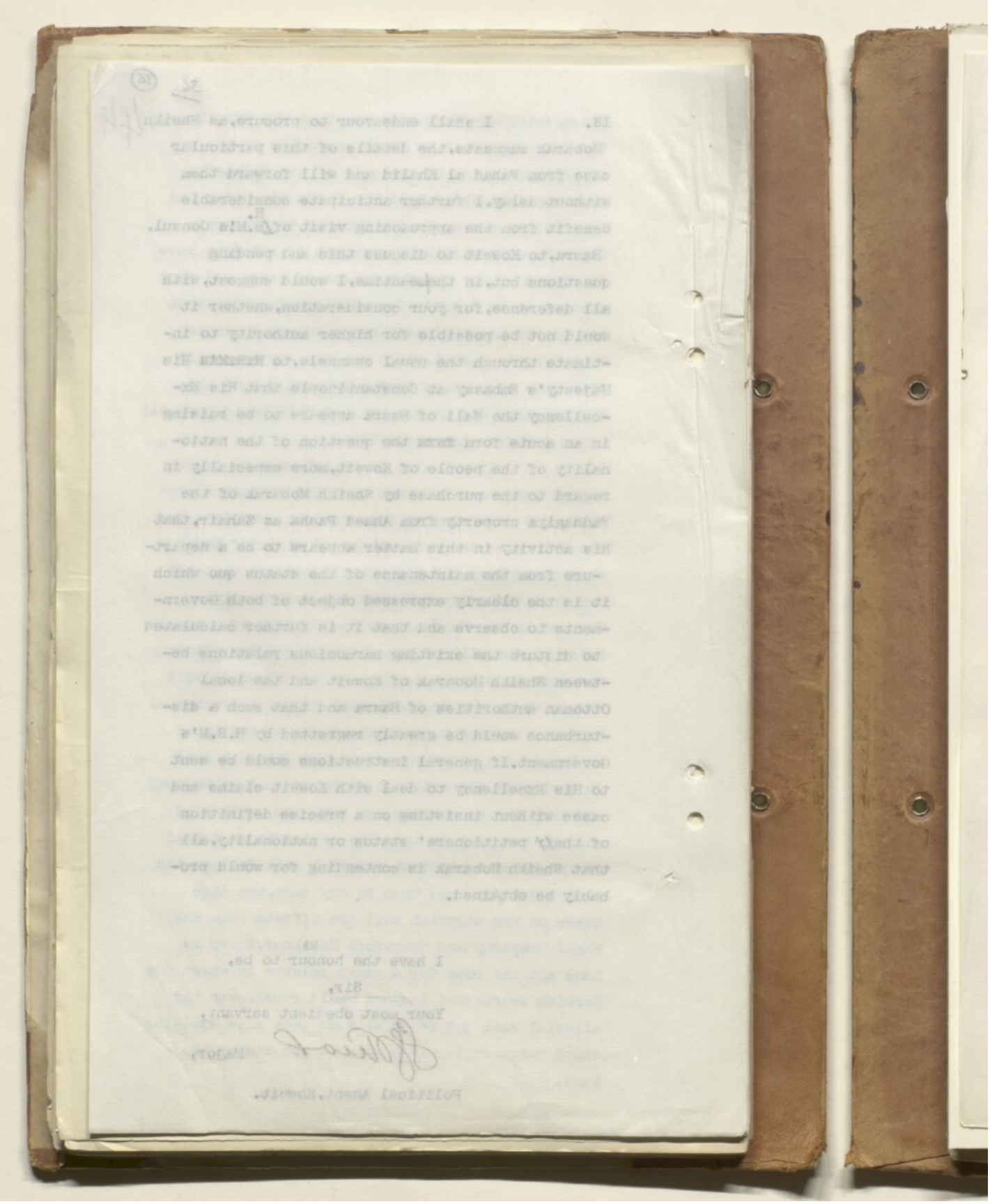
I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Major,

Political Agent, Koweit.



37. (37) 45

Confidential.

No. 55 of 1909.

Office of the Political Agent, Koweit.

Koweit / 82 February 1909.

From

Major S.G.Knox, I.A.,
Political Agent, Koweit,

To

Major P.Z.Cox, C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf,
Bushire.

Sir,

In continuation of my letter No.48, dated the 27th January 1909, I have the honour to report that H.B.M's Consul, Basra, arrived here on the 30th January and we have had frequent opportunities of discussing fully the question of the taking out of certificates of Turkish nationality by Koweit subjects temporarily residing or owning land within the limits of the Basra Walayat.

3. As regards the special case of Hammad al Khathair, Fahad al Khalid al Khathair had little to tell me and could only corroborate the fact that Hammad had taken out a certificate of Turkish nationality as he had no other way of recovering his debt. Fahad al Khalid did his best, however, to impress on me that this action of Hammad was only taken under pressure and laid much stress on the difficulty that the other members of the family would have, in the event of disagreement, in establishing their claim in Turkish courts to a share in any property which

Hammad might acquire on behalf of the firm or family(the two terms are interchangeable)of Al Khathair.The Turkish courts would undoubtedly now regard Hammad as sole owner,unless all the family took out similar certificates which they were not prepared to do.

3. From the explanation given by Mr.Crow of the Turkish action it would appear that their claim is now far more reasonable than was represented by me in my last letter and perhaps in consequence more difficult to combat successfully.

4. Briefly stated,it amounts to this that in all transactions before the Turkish Courts the claimants' nationality must be precisely defined before the claim is proceeded with and His Excellency the Wali has further stated that,in the matter of land registration, as regards all Arabs,only Turkish nationality will be accepted.An informal attempt by Mr.Crow before his visit here to induce His Excellency to accept Koweit nationality as sufficiently precise failed.

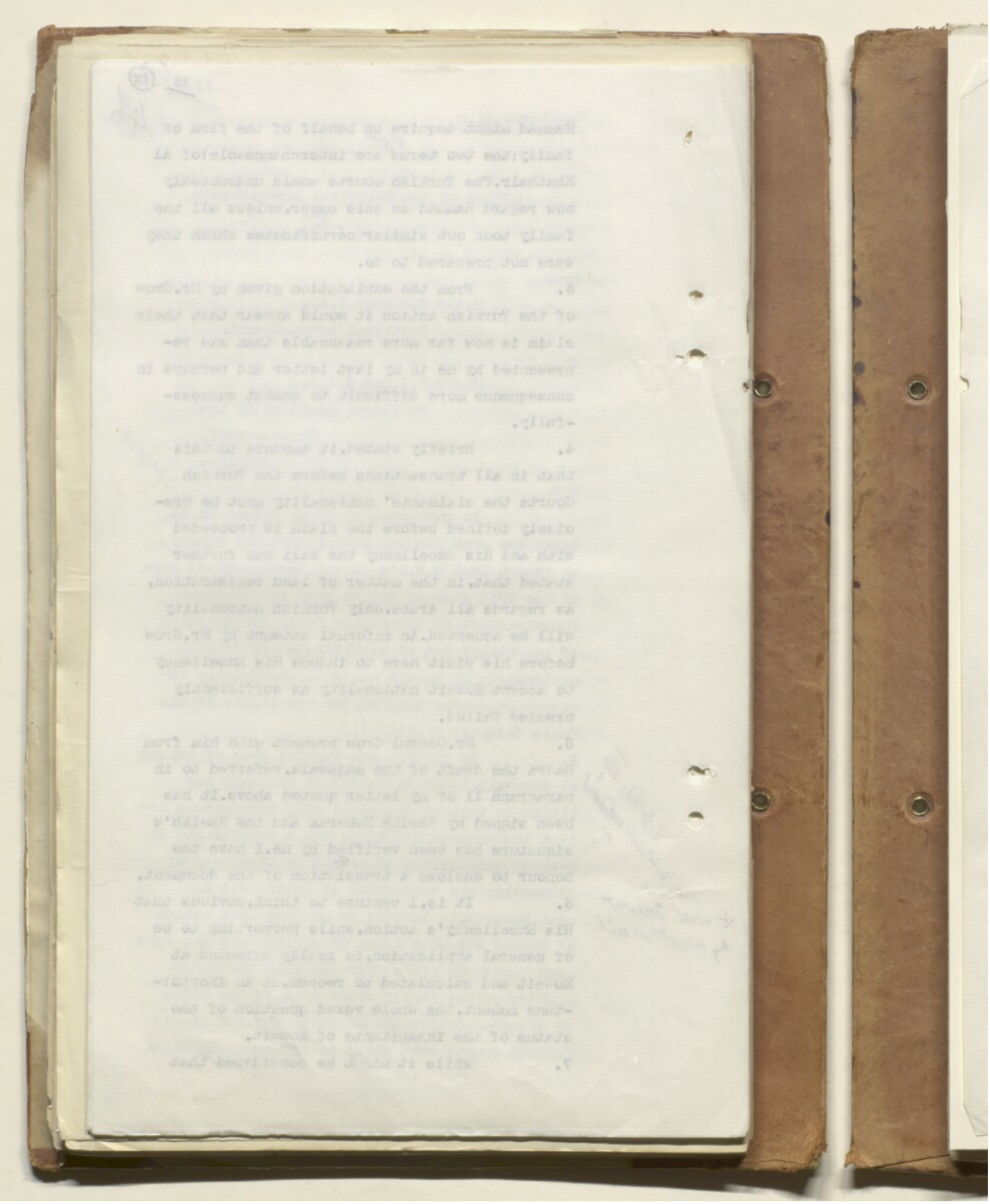
5. Mr.Consul Crow brought with him from Basra the draft of the maqawala,referred to in paragraph 11 of my letter quoted above.It has been signed by Sheikh Mobarak and the Sheikh's signature has been verified by me.I have the honour to enclose a translation* of the document.

6. It is,I venture to think,obvious that His Excellency's action,while purporting to be of general application,is really directed at Koweit and calculated to reopen,at an inopportune moment,the whole vexed question of the status of the inhabitants of Koweit.

7. While it might be considered that

Vide note ||| which endorsed

* will follow by next mail



(39) 39 47

there is no special objection to Koweit subjects, taking out certificates of Turkish nationality for the purpose of land or business transactions at Basra, as we have not so far professed to give them anything beyond good offices in Turkish territory, if we fail to support Sheikh Mobarak and his subjects at this juncture, the Sheikh at least will consider that his statement that we do not sufficiently protect his interests, is abundantly justified.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Major,
Political Agent, Koweit.

40. (40) 48

No. 616 of 1909.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 7th March 1909.

A copy of the undermentioned communication is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information, with reference to the correspondence ending with his letter No. 65 dated 6th February 1909.

File VIII page 228

By Order,

M. S. Rae Captain,

but should be No 5-5-71 Sr/Pol

Second Assistant Resident.

page 45 opticis file

- -

Resident to Foreign. Letter No. 615 dated 7th March 1909 (without enclosures).

below page 49

No 126 Registered 11/3/09

41 (41)

49

No. 615 of 1909.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 7th March 1909.

From

Major P.Z. Cox, C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the
Persian Gulf.

To

S.H. Butler, Esquire, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Secretary to the Government of India
In the Foreign Department,
C A L C U T T A.

File VIII page 12

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to Major Knox's letter No. 6 dated 4th January, a copy of which was forwarded with my letter of 5th February to your address on the subject of the request of Sheikh Mubarek for a loan.

2. While in Calcutta I communicated to you the purport of Consul Crow's telegram to me of 9th January (copy attached) and noted on it that Sheikh Mubarek would probably manage to get round the registration difficulty by using a proxy and effecting a "benami" transaction, if I may use an Indian term. I added that pending further news from Koweit no action seemed necessary.

no copy

3. On my return to headquarters, three further reports from

No. 48	dated	27th January	1909.	Major Knox have been
" 55	"	1st February	1909.	
" 65	"	6th "	1909.	placed before me, dealing

page 45 page 62 file VIII page 228

with the same subject, namely the activity of the new Wali of Busreh in obliging Koweitis to register as Ottoman subjects. Copies of them accompany.

It is only to be expected that the Porte should object, as the Persian Government does, to foreign nationalists possessing

landed

(42) 42. 50

landed property in the country, and conversely should insist in cases where they do so possess property, on their agreeing to be amenable in respect of such property to the local Courts, and to refrain from invoking protection from Capitulations; but this end can be attained, and is in Persia without any condition of independent registration, and for this demand, apparently a new one, there seems no manner of justification. It can only be presumed that it is the outcome of the personal attitude of the present Wali, who has evinced several signs of aggressive activity in such directions (for instance in connection with the affairs of Wakra) which if it cannot be checked is calculated to give us a good deal of inconvenience in these waters.

4. I venture to hope that the Government of India will see grounds in the accompanying reports, for moving His Majesty's Government to take such steps in the direction of representation to the Porte, as will induce the latter to discontinue this demand for the independent registration of Koweitis as Turkish subjects, and to bring about an improvement of the attitude of their present Wali at Busreh.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(sd) P.Z. Cox. Major,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

43.

JUL 1 - 1909

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(43)

U.F.S. The British Resident Bushire

No. 11.

British Consulate

Basra June 24 1909

BRITISH RESIDENCY RECEIPT No. 1992 Date 29.JUN.1909 PERSIAN GULF

Sir,

I am informed privately that the Vali of Basra has invited Sheikh Mubarek , as Caimakam of Koweit, to come to Basra. The Turks are taking measures to recover arrears of taxes from the Montifik Arabs and also to enquire into the question of arms running from Koweit to the Euphrates. Several of the Montifik Sheikhs have been summoned to Basra in connection with these matters. Some have arrived but others, notably Sadun Pasha, have not responded to the invitation. Sheikh Hamoud el Jaber of Medina is now in prison here on a charge of murder and other crimes. He is also alleged to be implicated in the recent disturbances on the Tigris and to have assisted the insurgents by ~~assisting~~ by running arms from Koweit to the Tigris side by way of the Euphrates.

It is probable that the Vali's message to Sheikh Mubarek was in connection with these matters. The Sheikh is said to have promised to come to Basra shortly.

H.M's Political Agent
Koweit

I have the honour to be,
Sir
Your most obedient, humble servant

U.O.S. The British Resident Bushire

No. 11. British Consulate

Basra June 24 1909

SIR,

I am informed privately that the Wali of Basra has invited Sheikh Mubarek, as Chief of Kowait, to come to Basra. The Turks are taking measures to recover arrears of taxes from the Montifik Arabs and also to enquire into the question of arms running from Kowait to the Euphrates. Several of the Montifik Sheikhs have been summoned to Basra in connection with these matters. Some have arrived but others, notably Saadun Pasha, have not responded to the invitation. Sheikh Hamoud el Jasser of Medina is now in prison here on a charge of murder and other crimes. He is also alleged to be implicated in the recent disturbances on the Tigris and to have assisted the insurgents by ~~assisting~~ by running arms from Kowait to the Tigris side by way of the Euphrates.

It is probable that the Wali's message to Sheikh Mubarek was in connection with these matters. The Sheikh is said to have promised to come to Basra shortly.

H.M's Political Agent I have the honour to be,

Kowait SIR

Your most obedient, humble servant

(44) 45.

JUL 8 - 1909

BRITISH RESIDENCY AND CONSULATE GENERAL · BUSHIRE ·

44 (44A) 59

30/6/09

My dear Shakespear.

pp 573 did not see Crow's No. 11. of 24-6-09 until it had gone. You might - sound Sh. Mubarak as to what Wali's message was & what he replied. Hutchinson knows yours &c

PRCox.

Note. Replied 14/7/09 saying Sheikh said it was all bunkum. That Sheikh was going up about his date gardens & to meet Sheikh Khazal. Might go on up to Basserah.

WS 14/7/09.

(44) 45.

Note. Replied 14 7/09 saying Sheikh said it was all bunkum. That Sheikh was going up about his date gardens & to meet Sheikh Khazal. Might go on up to Basserah.

WMS 14 7/09.

(45) 46.

53

Politicall Agency,

Koweit.

28th July 1909.

page 58

CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Crow,

With reference to yourt letter No-11 dated the 24th June 1909 which came under flying seal from Bushire. As you have probably heard Sheikh Mubarak has been up-river some little time now, and I hear there have been meetings between the Nakib, Sheikhs Khazal and Mubarak and the Wali of Basra. It looks rather as if what you heard was the fact though the Sheikh tome denied that he was going to see any Turkish authorities when he was starting for the Shatt-el-Arab.

I should be very much obliged if you could get some information as to what passed at these picnic confabs ! I expect the Sheikh will probably tell me a little, just what he thinks will be good enough for me and I should like to know how far he thinks fit to deceive me !

Hope you are keeping fit ; it is beastly hot dow here just at present.

Yours sincerely

Wm Shakespear

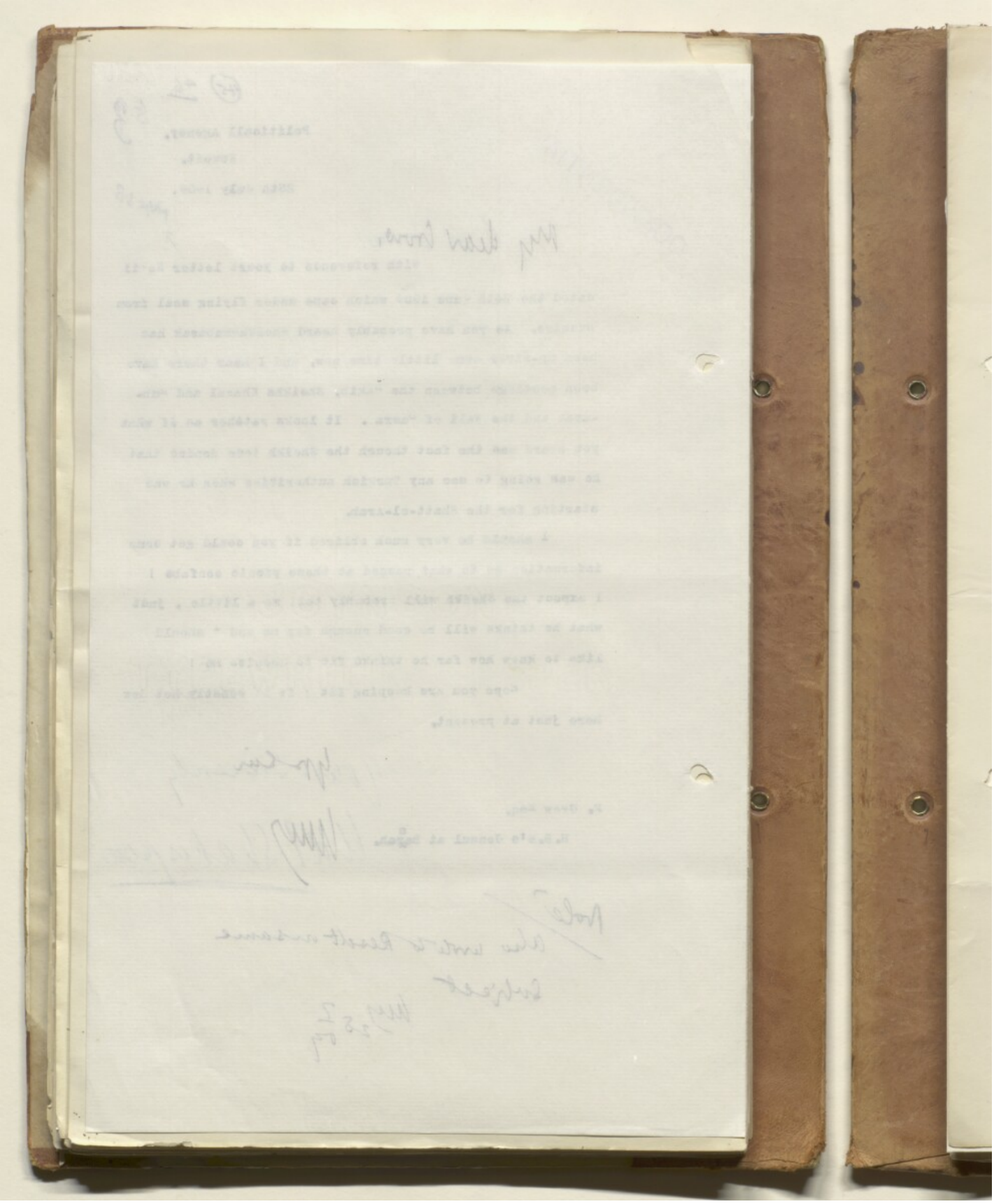
F. Crow Esq.

H.B.M's Consul at Basrah.

Note

Also wrote to Resdt on same subject

W 28 7 09.



47.

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 1601 of 1909.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 7th July 1909.

To

The Political Agent,

Koweit.

Sir,

With reference to the letter No. 615 of which a copy was forwarded to you under this office endorsement No. 616 dated 7th March, the Government of India enquire what the present position is and whether any communication to the Porte still seems called for. I have the honour to request that you will ask Sheikh Mubarek how the matter was eventually got over and what the attitude of the present Wali is.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

P. Z. Cox

Major,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Note:- In a Do. to me Major Cox says he met Sheikh Mubarak at Mohammerah and he denied ever registering the land he purchased for plantations & never intended to do so (as a Turkish subject).

23 7 09.

48.

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(47)

CONFIDENTIAL.

DRAFT—(For Approval).

POLITICAL ~~RESIDENCY, PERSIAN GULF.~~ Agency, Koweit

No. 444

Dated 7th August 1909.

To,

Political Resident,

BUSHIRE.

Sir,

page 5x

I have the honour to reply to your letter No 1601 dated the 7th July 1909 and to express my re-gret that Sheikh Mubarak's long absence from Koweit has made an earlier reply impossible.

2- I visited the Sheikh the day after his return and in the course of a long conversation he informed me that his affairs on the Shatt-el-Arab for the time being were progressing as smoothly as could be expected, and that the new Wali, who is an Arab, was not inclined, at least for the present, to be actively hostile.

3. He had met the new Wali at an entertainment given by the Nakib of Basra at a Zubbiliyah but that nothing of an intimate or private nature had passed either or been possible between them regarding his properties.

4. The Sheikh added that the question of land registration had not been pressed and that he had not registered in this case of the Sadhagiya properties nor did he ever contemplate doing so. Though I could obtain nothing very definite from the Sheikh I gathered that for the present his relations with the Turkish officials were comparatively friendly and he was inclined to leave matters as they are for fear that any representations to the Porte might reopen undesirable questions. I enquired whether he had noticed overthrow of the old regime in Constantinople had yet produced any

5

S 638—12,000-7-08

49.

(48)

(Continuation of Note, Précis or Draft.)

concomitant effect in the Basrah Vilayet and what he anticipated would be the reflective result on his own affairs.

The Sheikh replied that so far no change was apparent in Basra and so far as he personally was concerned he expected no ~~ill~~ that for the time being the Turks were not molesting him, but he had no doubt that, when it suited them, they would re-commence their policy of interference in his affairs, and that they would never forgive him for having allied himself to British interests.

6. In the circumstances it would appear that no representation of this Post is immediately called for.

Shakespear

6/8/09

S 639—12,000-7-08

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(49) 57

No. 2183 of 1909.

British Residency and Consulate-General.

Bushire, 31st August 1909.

A copy of the undermentioned despatch is forwarded, with compliments, to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information.

Major,
First Assistant Resident,
(In charge of Residency).

No.199, dated 19th July 1909, from Sir Edward Grey to Sir C. Lowther, received under Foreign Department endorsement No.1387-E.A., datdd the 17th August 1909.

---

51. (50) 58

C o p y.

Asiatic Turkey and Arabia.

Confidential.

(July 12)
~~Section 3.~~

No.1.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir C. Lowther.

No.199

Foreign Office,
July 19th 1909.

no copy

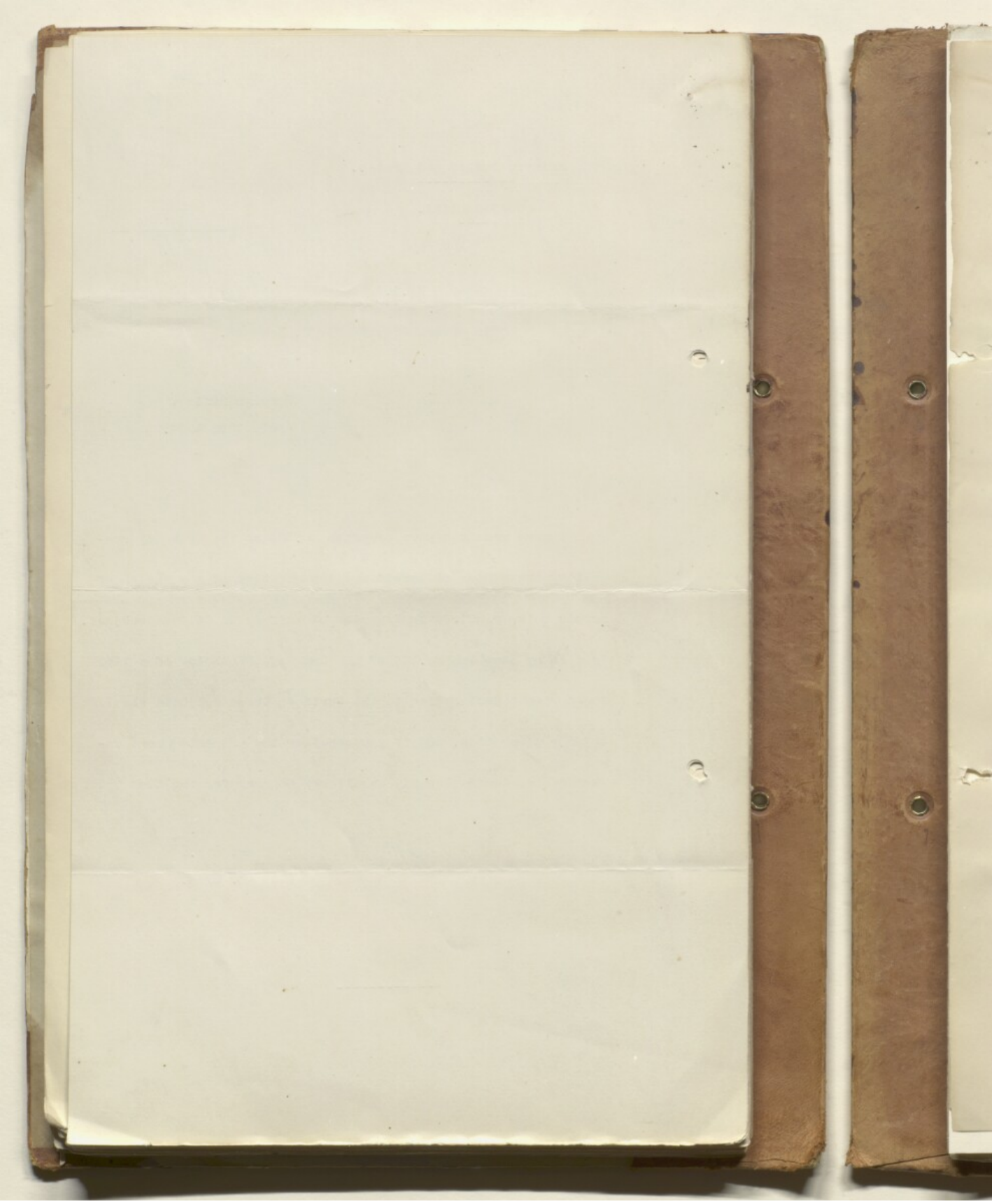
Sir,

I have received your despatch No.396 of the 28th May respecting the Status of Koweit and the question of the Sheikh of Koweit being required to describe himself as an Ottoman subject.

In my despatch No.130 of the 3rd May the choice of a time for making a declaration to the Porte on these subjects was left to your discretion, and if you consider the present moment unfavourable, the matter may be allowed to drop for the time being.

no copy

I am, etc.,
(Sd) E. Grey.



(51)

54. 60

D/O
Confidential

M.f.S. to Major Trevor.
M(Pol) 30.9.08. 2nd 1/10.

H. M's Consulate 52. 59
Mahommerah

My dear Shakespear,

(51A)

The following secret information has been given me by Shaikh Atab, a local notable of good standing and for 20 years friendly & indeed intimate with the Consul here.

I have no means of testing his authenticity, & send it to you for what it is worth: it may very likely be stale news, or not true.

— He came today from Fairiyah, where he saw the son of the late Shaikh Salim (bin Budar) who is now a scribe of Shaikh Mubarak & who has formerly been imprisoned in Basreh by the Turks.

This man was said by Mirza Hamza to be planning a movement towards the reunion of

60 Kowait & the Ottoman Empire

Shaikh Mubarak's son Jabir is said to favour such a movement.

Mirza Hamza also said that there was talk in Basreh to the same effect, & that the Turks were thinking of sending an emissary to Shaikh Mubarak with this end in view: he was moreover believed to be not indisposed to consider the question.

yours sincerely

A. T. Wilson.

(51)

54. 60

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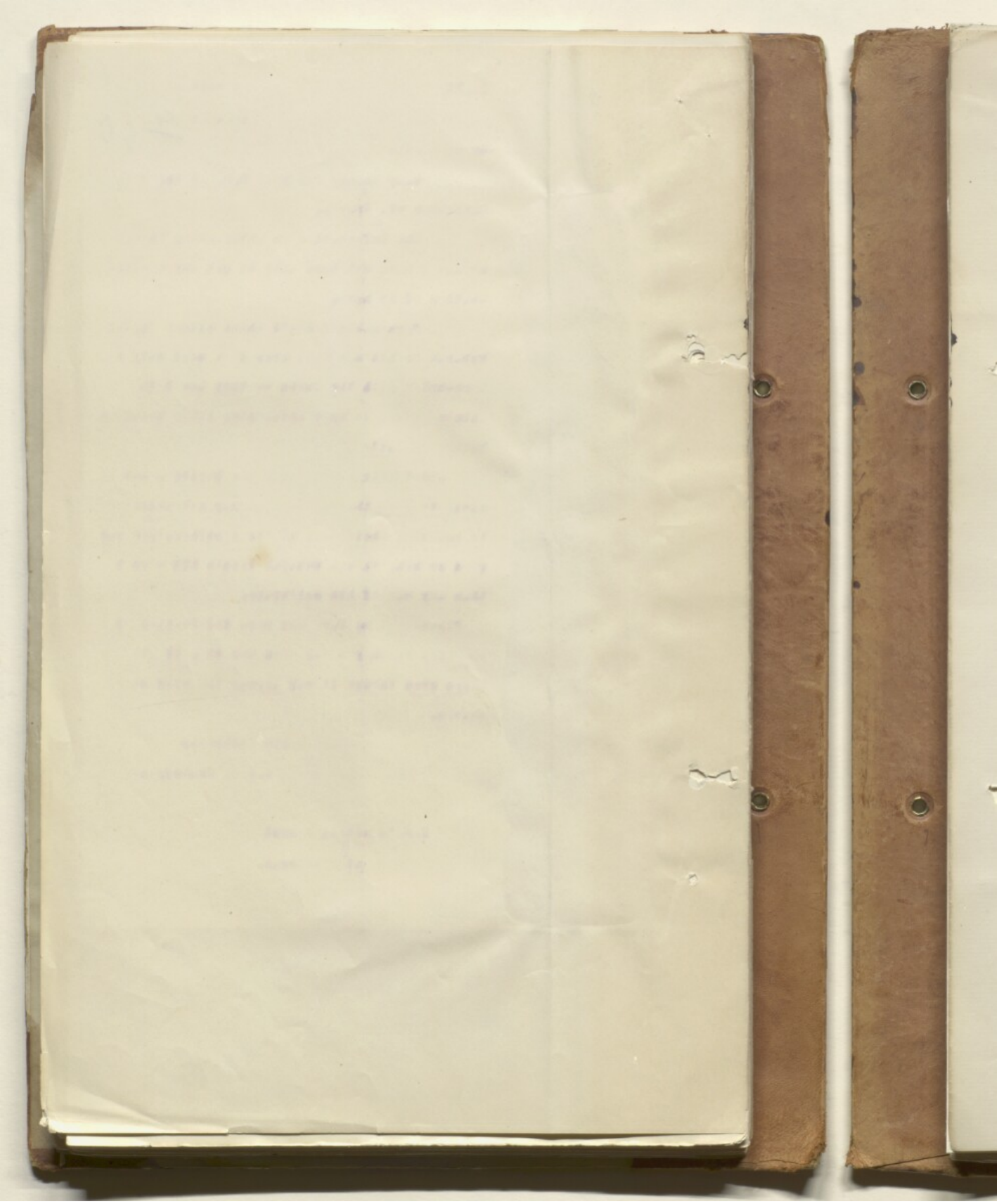
ttoman Empire.
Mubarak's son Jabir is
ar such a movement.
amza also said that
talk in Basreh to the
t, & that the Turks were
f sending an emissary
Mubarak with this end
he was moreover believed
indisposed to consider the

ours sincerely
A. T. Wilson.



CONFIDENTIAL

55. (52) 61

DRAFT

Koweit

19.10.1909.

page 59

My dear Wilson,

Many thanks for your D.O. of the 30th September via Trevor.

The information is interesting though so far I have not been able to get any confir--mation of it here.

Personally I don't think either Sheikh Mubarak or his son will ever look seriously to a re-union with the Turks -- they are both astute enough to know which side their bread is buttered best!

Abdul Aziz bin Salim , the scribe , has no cause to love the Turks , but may not object to becoming their tool if the consideration was good enough, though Mubarak trusts him more t than any man of his entourage.

Please let me have any more information of the kind which you may come across , it all helps even though it may appear the wildest of shaves.

Yours sincerely

W. H. I. Shakespear.

To,

H. M. 's Acting Consul

at Mohamerah.

56.

67

53

Confidential.

No. 2667 of 1909.

British Residency and Consulate-General.

Bushire, 24th October 1909.

OCT 28 1909

Reg 626

A copy of the undermentioned letter is forwarded, with compliments, to the Poltical Agent, Koweit, for information.

By Order,

S. Crothwaite. Lieutenant,

Scond Assistant Resident,

From Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey, No.646, dated the 8th August 1909, with enclosures. (Received under Foreign Department endorsement No.1594-E.A., dated the 7th October 1909).

(57) 57 69

(Received on 27th September 1909, with Political Secretary's letter No.37, dated the 10th September 1909).

@ ASIATIC TURKEY AND ARABIA.

Confidential.

(August 16)

Section 6.

(30759) No.1.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey (Recd.August 16)

(No.646).

Therapia,
August 8, 1909.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward, herewith for your information copies of despatches which I have received from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah reporting on the difficulties raised by the Vali with regard to the registration of a certain property at Fadeghia in the name of the Sheikh of Koweit. The objections raised by the Wali were, as you are aware, on the ground that Sheikh Mobarak must first take out an Ottoman teskereh as a Turkish subject. Influence is, however being brought to bear on the Council of Ministers to have these objections removed, and the Vali himself has promised Mr. Crow to do what he can in the matter.

The question, is, I may add, ~~is~~ a different one from that of the Fao lands near the fort of Koweit, which was settled satisfactorily a few months ago, as reported in my despatch No.396, of the 20th May last.

I have etc.,

Gerard Lowther,

Inclosure 1 in No.1.

Consul Crow to Sir G. Lowther.

(No.6).

Bussorah,

(55) 58. 44

No 6.

Bussorah, February 12, 1909.

Sir,

With reference to my telegrams No.67 of the 29th December No.2 of the 8th January, and No.3 of the 9th January last, I have the honour to report that I have proceeded to Koweit on the 29th ultimo by sea, my departure having been delayed two days in consequence of the weather, and returned overland on the 11th instant. Major Knox was good enough to place his steam launch at my disposal, and Sheikh Mobarak provided me with camels for the return journey.

As already reported by telegraph, my journey was in connection with the difficulties raised by the vali in regard to the transfer of the property of Fadaghia, situated in the kaza of Fao, and consisting of 430 jereebs (about 415 acres) of land lately purchased by Sheikh Mobarak of Koweit from Ahmed Pasha-es-Zoheir for £T.48,706. The vali would not allow the transfer to be made unless he, the Sheikh, registered himself as an Ottoman subject. What the vali actually said when remonstrated with was that the person who wanted the transfer must produce papers of nationality, and, if an Arab, he must produce papers of Turkish nationality. In accoradance with your Excellency's instructions, I suggested to the vali that "nationality - Koweit" on the transfer might be accepted in place of "Ottoman Subject", but his Excellency refused to entertain the suggestion, and insisted on the Sheikh describing himself as a Turkish subject in the transfer papers, and on his taking out a nufuss teskereh as well.

At the desire of the Sheikh two preliminary agreements respecting the sale of the Fadaghia land were drawn up, one copy of which, signed by Abdul Wahab Kirtas, as representative of the sellers, Zoheir Pasha and his wife, was executed in my presence at Bussorah and witnessed by a number of the Bussorah notables; the other copy in blank being handed to me to deliver to Sheikh Mobarak at Koweit for his signature and legalisation by His Majesty's Political Agent at Koweit. These documents, duly executed record the fact of the sale having taken place and the receipt of the money, and are good and binding as between the parties themselves

themselves. They would form a basis for arbitration should occasion arise, but they would have no validity in the courts of the Sheriat, nor would they, it appears, operate as a legal transfer of the land or take the place of the usual proceedings at the Tapoo Office, which are left over for completion until the vali's opposition in the matter can be overcome.

I took the duplicate agreement to Koweit with me for signature as described, and availed myself of the opportunity to discuss the whole question with Major Knox and the Sheikh himself. It would appear that the vali's opposition is premeditated, and goes to the root of the whole matter. His Excellency has, according to Sheikh Mobarak, again raised the question of Koweitis who reside and trade at Bussorah taking out certificates of Turkish nationality before their claims or complaints are entertained by the vali or the courts. In July 1907 Sheikh Mobarak appears to have reported to His Majesty's Political Agent that the then vali of Bussorah, Hassan Bey, had notified certain Koweit merchants trading at Bussorah to register themselves as Ottoman subjects under penalty of expulsion if they refused. The merchant interested, however, left Bussorah of his own accord, and the matter dropped. Sheikh Mobarak also complained of the treatment accorded to Hammad-el-Khalid, a rich pearl merchant of Koweit, who sought to recover £T.1,000 at Bussorah. The vali, according to the Sheikh, insited on the man registering himself as an Ottoman subject before ~~etre~~ entertaining the claim and it seems that he acceeded to this demand in order to recover his debt. Major Knox is of opinion that Khalid was probably instructed by the Sheikh to take out the nufuss teskereh with a view to bringing about our interference, and so obtain the issue of instructions to the vali which would assist the Tapoo operations in connection with the transfer of the Fadaghia property, in which the Sheikh himself is deeply interested. The vali also wrote to Sheikh Mobarak, so the latter informed us, inviting him to send a deputy to the Turkish Parliament, but the Sheikh had not yet answered the letter.

The vali is undoubtedly doing his best to disturb the status quo previously arranged between His Majesty's Government and the

Sublime

60. 66

Sublime Porte in regard to the Koweit question, and it is unlikely that he will be induced to modify his attitude by any arguments of mine without special instructions from Constantinople. Moreover, in view of your Excellency's ~~report~~ telegram of the 2nd January, in which you say it would be inexpedient to raise the Koweit question at present, I hesitate to approach the vali directly on the subject without your Excellency's instructions, as in view of his general attitude and his recent action in regard to Tapoo proceedings it would be difficult to do so without going into the whole question.

It would perhaps tide over the difficulty if the vali could be instructed to ~~give~~ grant facilities to the Sheikh for the transfer of his property in the present instance, failing which it seems not improbable that the Sheikh may cause the land to be registered in the names of his sons, and direct them to take out certificates of Turkish nationality for the purpose. In the course of a conversation which Major Knox and I had with the Sheikh, I gathered that the latter entertained no great objection himself to such a proceeding, but I presume it would be against our interests to permit him to do so in view of the complications itmight lead to after his death. It would certainly strengthen the contention of the Turks that Koweit belongs to them.

I have etc.,

F. E. Crow

Inclusure 2 in No.1.

Consul Crow to Sir G. Lowther.

(No.42).

Bussorah, July 12,1909.

Sir,

In conversation yesterday with the vali ~~yesterday~~ I referred to the registration of the Sheikh of Koweit's land at Fadaghia purchased from Ahmed Pasha-es-Zoheir to which the late vali, Moharrem Effendi, had raised objections on the ground that Sheikh Mobarak must take out an Ottoman Teskereh as a Turkish subject first, and I pointed out that the Sheikh was already the holder of large estates in the vilayet, which had been registered previously in

(58) 61. 67

in his name without this difficulty. I said the teskereh precaution seemed to superfluous and meaningless, as according to the convention of 1867 foreigners could acquire land in Turkey, and that the arrangement entailed their assimilation to Ottoman subjects. His Excellency agreed, and said that Moharrem Effendi had blundered, but that the real difficulty arose from the matter having been misunderstood at the Sublime Porte, which imagined that the transfer referred to large tracts of Government land at Ghermet Ali claimed by Ahmed Pasha es-Zoheir, and regarding which litigation was proceeding between the latter and the Ottoman Government. The vali said he was in communication with Constantinople on the subject, and hoped to settle the question shortly. He added, however, that Sheikh Mobarak desired the land registered in the name of one of his sons, and had ~~[illegible]~~ offered no objection to his taking out an Ottoman teskereh for the purpose, though he seemed to shrink from letting him appear personally at Bussorah to complete the formality.

I said I hoped his Excellency would endeavour to smooth over the difficulty, and let the Sheikh register his land at Fadaghia in the same way as his other properties, and the vali promised me to do what he could in the matter.

This is the first I have heard of the Fadaghia property being mistaken for that of Ghermet Ali. They have of course nothing to do with one another, and are situated in totally different parts of the district. I am informed privately that Ahmed Pasha-es-Zoheir and his family have been in possession of property at Ghermet Ali for many years, and hold the title-deeds of the land. There is great enmity between his family and that of the nakib, with whom the vali is at present very friendly, and the claim now put forward to this property by the Government seems to be the result of an intrigue on the part of Seyyid Talib, the nakib's son. It is possible the vali may have wished to mislead me, for it is quite certain that the Porte laid great stress on Mobarak-es-Sabah taking out a teskereh of Ottoman nationality, and gave orders to hold over the registration of the transfer of Fadaghia until the formality was completed.

I am also informed that Ahmed Pasha-es-Zoheir has been endeavouring

(59) 62. 68

deavouring to settle the matter through the Council of State at Constantinople, and that he telegraphed recently that instructions were being sent to the vali to permit the registration of the transfer. The vali made no allusion to this in his conversation with yesterday.

I have etc.,

F.E.Crow.

Printed copy of the undermentioned communication is for-warded, with compliments, to the Political Agent Kuwait for information and record.

Residency no 288 of 30.1.10. and enclosure.

British Residency and Consulate-General.

Bushire, 5 - 3 — 1910.

Print sets detached for original draft in file

MAR 10 1910

C.7

63

69

(60)

[*Confidential.*]

No. 288, dated Bushire, the 30th January (received 8th February) 1910.

From—Major A. P. Trevor, I.A., First Assistant Resident in charge of Residency,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

With reference to Foreign Department endorsement No. 1594-E.A., dated 7th October 1909, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the marginally-noted letter on the subject of Sheikh Mubarak's Fadhagiya property, which I have received from the Political Agent, Koweit.

No. C.-7, dated the 18th January 1910.

No. C.-7, dated Koweit, the 18th January 1910 (Confidential).

From—Captain W. H. I. Shakespear, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit,

To—The First Assistant Resident in charge of the Residency, Bushire.

I have the honour to invite a reference to the correspondence ending with your Second Assistant's endorsement No. 2667, dated the 24th October 1909, regarding the claim advanced by the Turkish authorities for the registration of Sheikh Mubarak as an Ottoman subject as a proceeding necessary to the legal transfer of landed property purchased by him.

2. In my letter No. 444, dated the 7th August 1909, I reported that the Sheikh was inclined to leave matters in *status quo* and that the new Wali, an Arab by name Sayid Arif Bey, was not hostile, whilst the question of Sheikh Mubarak's registration as a Turkish subject had not been pressed.

3. I would now cast back to the purchase in February 1909 by Sheikh Mubarak of what is known as the Fadhagiya property of the az-Zuhair family, and would observe that this letter deals with the registration question arising out of the purchase of that property alone and not with the Sheikh's Fao estates. In recent conversations the Sheikh mentioned that the Turkish officials were not as complacent as formerly towards him and his properties and eventually he furnished me with copies (I have not seen the originals) of the sale-deeds of the Fadhagiya property, and it will suffice if the following points from them are noted:—

(*a*) That the Fadhagiya property was shared by various members of the az-Zuhair family and therefore four separate sale-deeds became necessary.

(*b*) That the purchase by Sheikh Mubarak was completed on the 21st Mohurrum 1327 (=14th February 1909), part of the price being paid on the spot in cash and part by drafts due at various dates, which the Sheikh informs me have all since been cashed.

(*c*) That one Abdul Wahab al-Kirtas acted in all except one case as the attorney of the vendors.

(*d*) That in each sale-deed is contained a condition that the vendor or his attorney, Abdul Wahab, shall arrange for the necessary transfers in the registers of the Land Revenue Office (the Tapu Office) of the Basrah Vilayet.

(*e*) That Sheikh Mubarak entered into possession from the date of the purchase.

4. It appears that immediately after the sale, which took place in the time of Mahrum Effendi as Wali, Abdul Wahab al-Kirtas applied for the necessary transfer in the Land Registers to be made to Sheikh Mubarak's name. The transfer was refused by the Superintendent of the Tapu Office and Abdul Wahab accordingly on the 9th Shabat 1324 (22nd February 1909) complained by letter to the Wali of his subordinate's dilatoriness. From a copy (which the

71

Sheikh has apparently succeeded in securing) of the orders and remarks passed on this petition, it appears that the Wali, Mahrum Effendi, forwarded the petition for remarks to the subordinate concerned, who replied on the same date that a telegram from the Ministry of the Interior at Constantinople prohibited the transfer pending further orders, to which the Wali appended the equivalent of our routine official remark 'Noted'.

Sheikh Mubarak's explanation of this telegram is that Mahrum Effendi was inimical to him and hearing of his intended purchase of the Fadhagiya property telegraphed to Constantinople that the purchase was being made by Mubarak with British gold, and it was upon this falsehood that the Ministry of the Interior telegraphed the order to delay the completion of the sale. This delay was effected at Basrah by a refusal to register the land-transfer unless Sheikh Mubarak took out a Nationality certificate labelling him as a Turkish subject. The means of salvation were communicated to Abdul Wahab al-Kirtas, but he on behalf of Sheikh Mubarak at once said that such a course was unprecedented in the case of any well-known merchant or large landowner in Basrah and much less to be contemplated in the case of an influential Sheikh of Mubarak's position who moreover held many other acres on the Shatt-el-Arab and had never hitherto been requested to conform to a regulation which was enforced but seldom and then only in the case of petty nobodies.

5. Abdul Wahab al-Kirtas continued trying at intervals to effect the transfer and Sayid Arif Bey, the Arab who succeeded Mahrum Effendi as Wali in May 1909, endeavoured to help him by getting the earlier order cancelled at Constantinople. Nothing however resulted, and Arif Bey was in turn succeeded in October 1909 by Suliman Nathif Pasha, the present Wali. Abdul Wahab addressed himself to the newcomer at the first opportunity and was told at once and very plainly that no transfer would be made until Mubarak had duly registered himself as an Ottoman subject.

6. Nothing further has happened and now, a year after Sheikh Mubarak took possession of the property, the price has been paid up in full, Mubarak pays the taxes, but the property still stands in the name of the az-Zuhair family and so far as the Turkish authorities and Courts are concerned is still their property.

7. Ahmad Pasha az-Zuhair, who is the head of the family and represents Basrah in the new Turkish Parliament, promised his good offices in Constantinople, but from his efforts, if indeed any were made, nothing has hitherto resulted, and as Sheikh Mubarak pointed out "he has received his money, why should he trouble further about the purchaser and the property."

8. Sheikh Mubarak now feels that he can do no more to settle the matter himself, that there is no hope of changing the present Wali's (Suliman Nathif Pasha's) attitude, and therefore requests that His Majesty's Ambassador in Constantinople may be urged to take up the cudgels for him to obtain either a rescission of the previous orders or a definite exemption from the necessity for registration either of his property or his person as Turkish.

9. The above gives the story of the Sheikh's difficulties from his point of view and much of the ground has already been covered in Mr. Consul Crow's two despatches to Sir Gerald Lowther, dated the 12th February and 12th July 1909, though from a different aspect.

10. From the previous correspondence on the subject it will be apparent that, in spite of the Sheikh's local efforts, Mr. Consul Crow's endeavours, and the late Wali Arif Bey's assistance, the demand for Turkish registration still continues. The question is a most important one as affecting the whole status of Koweit and one which would appear now to be capable of solution only in Constantinople or London. The Sheikh informed me that only one Koweiti has so far taken out a Turkish certificate of nationality, Hamid al-Khalid, whose case was reported in my predecessor's letter No. 48 of the 27th January 1909. The Fadhagiya property sale-deeds stand in the Sheikh's own name, but he informed me that the property known as Mutawiya, which he purchased from Sheikh Sadun of the Muniifich, stands in the names of Hamid-al-Khalid and the Sheikh's sons, Jabir, Salim and Hamed bin Mobarak. The transfer of this Mutawiya property was duly registered in the Tapu Office records, no

65.

72 (62)

difficulty being made presumably because Hamid-al-Khalid had already taken out a Nationality certificate. The Sheikh said that his sons had not taken out certificates as is suggested likely in Mr. Crow's despatches quoted above.

11. In discussing the matter, I informed the Sheikh that before His Majesty's Ambassador could even be asked to move on his behalf the very fullest information would be necessary, and seeing that all local efforts had apparently been unsuccessful it would be advisable to obtain from Constantinople, perhaps through Ahmad Pasha az-Zuhair, details of what had passed there with regard to the matter. The Sheikh agreed to try and obtain the further information.

12. Meanwhile this report of the present situation is forwarded with the hope that Government being put in possession of all that is available may be able to re-examine a question which presents a very thorny problem and which will require a solution if the independence of the Ruler of Koweit is to mean anything more than the inaccessibility or freedom of his port from Turkish aggression and, it may be added, if our position in Koweit is to be made secure from incessant Turkish intrigue.

S. G. P. I.—2885 F. D.—21-2-10.—40.

66. 63

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CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT—(For Approval).

POLITICAL ~~RESIDENCY~~ Agency, PERSIAN GULF.

Koweit.

No. C.11

Dated 6th March 1910.

To,

F.A.R. in charge Residency,

Bushire.

Sir,

With reference to the correspondence ending with my letter No C.7 dated the 18th January 1910 and my diary entries for February ~~regarding~~ regarding ~~the~~ Sheikh Mubarak's recent visit to Fao and Basra. I have the honour to report the following further particul-ars.

2. In conversation the Sheikh mentioned his visit to Fao, said that he had met the Wali there, and had then gone on to Basra in his yacht, stayed a few days at Sheikh ~~Khazal~~ Khazal's palace in Basra and returned. On my enquiry whether anything had passed during the meeting as to the registration of his properties, he informed me with unusual emphasis that not a word had been broached on the subject, which was still in the position already reported in my letter referred to above. He added that the Wali had come down the river on tour and as he visited his estates at Fao he had felt bound to be present.

3. The above gives the Sheikh's version, but I heard on excellent authority what I believe to be ~~the~~ the real facts from an intimate friend of the Sheikh's. The Wali intending to visit Fao ~~to~~ summoned Sheikh Mubarak and the latter left Koweit in haste in the middle of his prepara-tions for his campaign against the Ajman tribe. Calls were exchanged between the Sheikh and the Wali at Fao on

S 638—12,000-7-08

(64) 67.

(Continuation of Note, Précis of Draft.) and the Sheikh was also entertained by the Wali at a dinner.

board their respective vessels, What passed between them 74 exactly I am not aware but the subject of the registration of his properties certainly came up and was settled summarily by the Wali refusing to even discuss the question until Mubarak should first take out a Turkish Nationality certificate.

Subsequently the Sheikh went up to Basra, and I am unable to say whether calls were again exchanged there but I believe not as I am informed that Sheikh Mubarak did not land at the "Serai" (Government House) in Basra.

4. It is significant that the Sheikh's secretary Abdul Aziz bin Salim has been in Basra sometime now, though on what business I have no information, and that the Sheikh undoubtedly sought to deceive me as to what passed between him and the Wali.

5. I am forwarding a copy of this letter to H.M's Consul at Basra to ask if he can furnish any further light on the subject.

I have etc,

5-3/10.

S 639—12,000-7-08

68.

65

75

CONFIDENTIAL.

DRAFT—(For Approval).

POLITICAL RESIDENCY, PERSIAN GULF.

No.

Dated 6th March 1910.

page 73

My dear Crow

I enclose a copy of a letter I am sending on to Government about the Sheikh's last visit to Fao and Basra. I am afraid the old gentleman wants to deceive me rather more than usual over this visit and what happened at it for some reason of his own which I have not fathomed yet. I should be very much obliged if you could find out quietly and so as not to let it reach him eventually what really did happen. Also what happened at his visit to Basra as well.

I was away in the desert at the time and everything at present is overshadowed by the visit of Bin Saud here.

Yrs. sincerely

To,

F.E. Crow Esq.

H.M's Consul at Basra

S 638—12,000-7-08

69. (66)

76

CONFIDENTIAL

DRAFT—(For Approval).

POLITICAL RESIDENCY, PERSIAN GULF.

No.

Dated 16. 3. 1910.

My dear Holland

Would you mind getting some of your secret service people or informers to discover very quietly what one Abdul Aziz bin Salim bin Badr is doing in Maskat ? This man is the Sheikh's secretary here and has been very busy between here and Basra and now I hear is to visit Maskat by this fast mail ostensibly to arrange for a supply of building stone for the Wali of Basra! This idea seems preposterous on the face of it and I think his visit is more likely to be connected with arms. He is deep in the Sheikh's confidence and I should like to get an idea what he is really playing at.

I believe Sayid Yusuf (I mean the old man who lives just by you on the east) is a great friend of his so if talking to him don't give me away!

Hope you are fit and the arms traffic is not wearing you to death altogether!

Yours sincerely

Mey

S 638—12,000-7-08

678

No. 678 of 1910.

70. (67)

77

Confidential.

BRITISH RESIDENCY AND CONSULATE GENERAL:

Bushire, the 15th March 1910.

A copy of the accompanying letter is forwarded, with compliments, to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information, with reference to his letter No.C.11, dated 6th March 1910.

page 73

By order,

W 7078 MAR 18 1910

C.20

Captain,

Second Assistant Resident.

WH

No.14, dated Basra, 9th March 1910, from Consul, Basra, to Ambassador, Constantinople. (Received from Consul, Basra, under his No.10, dated 10th March 1910).

S 746—2,000-10-08

(C o p y).

71. (68)

78

No.14.

Basra,

March 9th 1910.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that last month the Vali and the Commodore proceeded in the "Marmaris" to Fao and met Sheikh Mobarak and Sheikh Khazal at the house of Abdul Wahab el Kartass at Saraji a few miles from Basra. The company were entertained at a banquet at which the proceedings were enlivened by the Turkish band. After the meal Abdul Wahab, the host, made a speech which has been reproduced in a local Arabic newspaper the "Izhar el Hakk". The speaker after congratulating the Ottoman Nation on acquiring freedom and a Constitution, said no people had ever done so without gradually progressing to the attainment of the highest happiness, glory and prosperity, and he was convinced Turkey would do the same. He then declared that certain dishonest officials in the past, in order to serve their own ends had succeeded in ~~estranging~~ estranging Sheikh Mobarak Pasha, Caimakam of Koweit from his country and his Government, and went on to eulogise the Sheikh in the following terms:-

"Who is Sheikh Mobarak Pasha es Sabah ? He is the free faithful and zealous Ottoman now among us. Excellencies, we all know him well and I need not detain you with an account of the Sheikh or his family, whose generous qualities have gained notoriety from the books of Midhat Pasha, the founder of our freedom, while more recently the Sheikh himself has become famous for the lavish manner in which he has contributed both money and assistance, as is attested by the official records of the Government".

The speaker concluded his address " by attesting to the fact that throughout the course of past events and vicissitudes, the the Sheikh has never wavered or changed in his allegiance and fidelity to the Ottoman Government and nation", and ended by saying "Long life to Sheikh Mubarek and our beloved neighbour, Sardar Arfa Khazal

H.E.The Rt.Hon'ble Sir G.A.Lowther, K.C.M.G., C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

(C o p y).

No.14.

Basra,

March 9th 1910.

Sir,

I have the honour to report that last month the Wali and the Commodore proceeded in the "Marmaris" to Fao and met Sheikh Mobarak and Sheikh Khazal at the house of Abdul Wahab el Jerrahi at Zerajib a few miles from Basra. The company were entertained at a banquet at which the proceedings were enlivened by the Turkish band. After the meal Abdul Wahab, the host, made a speech which has been reproduced in a local Arabic newspaper the "Lisan el Hakk". The speaker after congratulating the Ottoman Nation on acquiring freedom and a Constitution, said no people had ever done so without gradually progressing to the attainment of the highest happiness, glory and prosperity, and he was convinced Turkey would do the same. He then declared that certain dishonest officials in the past, in order to serve their own ends had succeeded in ~~estranging~~ estranging Sheikh Mobarak from Calamkam of Kuwait from his country and his government, and went on to eulogize the Sheikh in the following terms:-

"Who is Sheikh Mobarak Pasha es Sabah ? He is the free faithful and zealous Ottoman now among us. Excellencies, we all know him well and I need not detain you with an account of the Sheikh or his family, whose generous qualities have gained notoriety from the books of Midhat Pasha, the founder of our freedom, while more recently the Sheikh himself has become famous for the lavish manner in which he has contributed both money and assistance, as is attested by the official records of the Government.

The speaker concluded his address " by assuring us the last that throughout the course of past events and vicissitudes, the Sheikh has never wavered or changed in his allegiance and fidelity to the Ottoman Government and nation", and ended by saying "Long life to Sheikh Mubarak and our beloved neighbour, Sardar Arfakasal

H.E.The Rt.Hon'ble Sir G.A.Lowther, K.C.M.G., C.B.,
&c. &c. &c.

72. (69) 79

Arfa Khazal Khan, who, although a Persian by nationality, conducts himself like an Ottoman in his acts and contributes both efforts and money to the establishment of peace and good order in our dear native land and that more especially in the time of the present Vali".

The party were then photographed, the Vali in the middle with Khazal on his right and Mobarak on his left while the speaker, Kartass, stood in the foreground with his back to the camera.

I called a few days ago on the author of the speech, Abdul Wahab el Kartass who quite admitted that he had his tongue in his cheek when he delivered it.

Mr.Lyle of Messrs Gray Mackenzie and Co., who visited the Sheikh at Koweit shortly after his trip to Basra, informed me that Mobarak had told him that the Vali still refused to allow the registration of the transfer of the land he had purchased at Fadaghie unless he took out a certificate of Ottoman nationality. Abdul Wahab Pasha, however, gave me a somewhat different account of the matter. According to him, strict orders have been received from Constantinople not to permit the registration of the transfer to Mobarak at all. The reason for this opposition to what is really a very ordinary transaction is, so Abdul Wahab informs me, that a misconception exists at Constantinople regarding the situation of the land to be transferred and that the Ministers believe it to occupy an important strategic position commanding Basra, moreover, they do not think Mobarak is buying the land himself but that the British Government are financing him in the matter. Abdul Wahab says the Vali had sent in very favourable reports, explaining how erroneous all this is, but he has not succeeded in overcoming the opposition of the Ministers. As regards the question of the nufus teskere, Abdul Wahab told me this matter could easily be got over by the Sheikh putting the land in the name of his blind son and taking out a certificate of Ottoman nationality for his in order to satisfy Turkish susceptibilities. I informed Your Excellency in a previous despatch that Sheikh Mobarak proposed adopting this course when Major Knox and I discussed the matter with him last year at Koweit. I do not myself think the Vali is as obligingly disposed to settle the question

in

in the way the Sheikh suggests as Abdul Wahab Pasha would have me believe. As the deputy Ahmed Pasha es Zobeir, the seller of the land, is at Constantinople, he could, no doubt, satisfy the Ministers as to the position of Fadaghie. I think they do not want to let Sheikh Mobarak acquire more ground here for purely political reasons and the Vali, I think, is not likely to endeavour to induce them to change their minds as he fully appreciates the anomaly of the Sheikh's position and loses no opportunity of having a dig at me about the Koweit question. Your Excellency may have seen a statement in the Frankfurter Zeitung that Ahmed Pasha Zobeir had sold large tracts of land at Basra to the British Government. An indignant denial of this was published by Zobeir's brother, Abd el Mohsin, president of the Municipality, in the Basra newspaper "Izhar el Hakk", but the statement no doubt, refers to the present transaction and cannot but tend to increase the Turkish suspicions.

The Vali, however, practises, the Turkish maxim about being affable to ones friends and dissimulating with ones enemies and I hear Sheikh Mobarak has promised to assist him to get the stone required for his new road by using Koweit boats to bring the material from Muscat, no charge being made for freight but the Vali paying the cost of the labour employed. Whether the Koweit fishermen will approve of this onerous arrangement is another question. In any case the Vali is cultivating good relations with his neighbours to some purpose and, as long as continues on good terms with the powerful Sheikh of Mohammerah, it is unlikely there will be any armed disturbance in the Vilayet. There have been none of importance this winter. Early last month Falih es Seyhood, who is practically an outlaw, and who seems to have enlisted the good offices of Sheikh Khazal in order to effect a reconciliation with the Vali, came from Mohammerah where he has been staying, to Basra and asked for pardon, saying he was ready to pay arrears of taxes due and to give up the rifles of his Arabs to the Turkish Government, to which he expressed his loyalty. The Vali communicated his application to the Minister of the Interior but I have not heard with what result. Falih returned to Mohammerah the Vali having given him to understand that he would be arrested if he remained here longer than twenty four hours.

Sheikh

74. (71) 81

Sheikh Khazal has on his side reciprocated by maintaining a conciliatory attitude towards the Vali since his arrival and has not opposed the partial destruction of his house property on the Ashar creek road, which is included in the municipal scheme now being carried out by the Vali of widening the road and laying down a tramway to Basra. Sheikh Khazal's agent, Mirza Hamza, called on me and made some enquiries as to my own attitude in regard to the properties of the Bohra and Khoja communities on the road which were being partly pulled down. I told Mirza Hamza that I had been in correspondence with Constantinople on the subject and H.M.Embassy saw no reason to interfere with the execution of the Vali's project and that I had received instructions as to the limits within which the Authorities could claim compliance with their designs without payment and the nature of the compensation which could be demanded under the regulations. The Sheikh's agent took note of the date of the Building law and I noticed that work was begun on his houses on the following day.

I have etc.,

(signed) F.E.Crow.

75 (72)

H.B.M. CONSULATE,
BASRA.

March 18 1910

MAR 21 1910

My dear Shakespear,

Many thanks for your letter and the copy of your conf. report about Mubarek. I sent a copy of my report to the Embassy No 14 of March 9 to Trevor at Bushire, who tells me he has sent it on to you. I thought to kill two birds at once. I have little to add to that. I do not know what passed between the Vali and the Sheikh except from Kartass who I suppose interpreted as the Sheikh knows no Turkish and the Vali no colloquial Arabic. The matter was no doubt discussed as you see and Kartass tried to persuade us that the Vali was helping Mubarek in the matter but that the real opposition came from Consple.. The matte r is now still further complicated by the orders from the Cadastral Dept at Consple to discontinue registering all this date bearing land as "Mulk" or freehold and to consider it as "miri" or domanial land, which makes a vast difference to the owners, and will raise a great deal of opposition here.

The active new Govt have referred to the land census of 982 AH. 1574 A.D

83

(I suppose their last one) and find that all holders of freehold property died about then and their relations too and so all the land lapsed to the State. So simple. It was then re-let as domanial or state land to the nomad settlers. The people therefore have freehold rights in the buildings, gardens and trees etc on the land but the ownership of the land itself rests with the State and the holders only have a possessory interest in it which they are now to have confirmed by title deeds framed in the sense required by this new ruling of Govt. The Vali jibs at the order as he fears disturbance and defers the evil day.

I also hear that Sheikh Khazal is greatly in debt to Mubarek who advanced him large sums for his forays etc. You may know better than I whether this is correct.

I hope you had a good trip. I am still alone till the end of March probably my party are visiting Holland. I fell off my horse on March 1 and sprained my right hand rather badly so please excuse more I have to write with my left.

Yours sincerely

H. Crow

No. 725 of 1910.

Confidential.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 20th March 1910.

A copy of the undermentioned communication is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information, with reference to his letter No. C.11 dated 6th March 1910.

By Order,

Captain,

Second Assistant Resident.

Letter No. 724 dated 20th March 1910, from the First Assistant Resident in charge of Residency Bushire, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Calcutta.

&&&&&&&&&&&&&

No. 725 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 20th March 1910.

A copy of the undermentioned communication is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Kuwait, for information, with reference to his letter No. C.II dated 6th March 1910.

By Order,

Captain,

Second Assistant Resident.

Letter No. 724 dated 20th March 1910, from the First Assistant Resident in charge of Residency Bushire, to the Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Calcutta.

77.
(74) 85

No. 724 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 20th March 1910.

From

Major A.P. Trevor, I.A.,
First Assistant Resident
In charge of Residency.

To

The Hon'ble Mr. S.H. Butler, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Secretary to the Government of India
In the Foreign Department,
C A L C U T T A.

page 70

Sir,

In continuation of the correspondence ending with my letter No. 288 dated 30th January 1910, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copies of the marginally noted letters on the subject of Sheikh Mubarek's Fao properties, and of Sheikh Mubarek's recent meeting with the Vali of Busreh in connection therewith.

page 73

(1).Letter No. C.11 dated 6th March (Received 15th) 1910 from the Political Agent Koweit to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.
(2). Letter No.14 dated 9th (Recd. 15th) March 1910 from His Majesty's Consul Busreh to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

page 72

2. The account of his trip given by Sheikh Mubarek to Captain Shakespear is very different from that given in Mr. Crow's report. I have furnished Captain Shakespear with a copy of Mr. Crow's report and asked him to make further enquiries about the matter. It is, however, sufficiently evident that the Sheikh's emphatic statement that "not one word had been broached on the subject of his properties" is not in accordance with fact. No doubt, however, the Sheikh does not for a moment think that we believe such assurances.

3.

78. (75)

3. It is evident from Mr. Crow's report that the new Vali of Busreh is trying to ingratiate himself with Sheikhs Khazal and Mubarek. It does not seem desirable from our point of view that the two Chiefs should become too friendly with His Excellency and I have asked His Majesty's Consul Busreh to be so good as to let me know if anything further transpires. It is very possible that Sheikh Khazal finding himself in opposition to the Bakhtyari (and most powerful) element in the Persian Government, may desire to make friends with the Turks, but it hardly seems likely that Sheikh Mubarek being on such friendly terms with Bin Saud could seriously contemplate any arrangement with the Turks. In fact it seems possible that Sheikh Mubarek is merely trying to throw dust in the eyes of the Vali.

4. It appears that nothing was actually settled regarding the registration of the Fadaghia property, and in fact that no immediate settlement is likely. Any further information received will at once be reported to Government.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(sd) A.P. Trevor. Major,

First Assistant Resident

In charge of Residency.

(76)

81 89

27. 3. 10 79 87

(76A)

BRITISH CONSULATE AND POLITICAL AGENCY MUSCAT

APR 7 - 1910

C-28

My dear Shakespear

Your d/o d. 16.3. page 76

I have been making enquiries about Abdul Aziz bin Salim bin Bede, but so far all the information which I have received seems to indicate that he was sent here by the Sheikh

acknowledged 12/4/10

(76)

81. 89

of Kuwait to 80/88
introduce the Wali's
representative to
the Sultan & to
facilitate the supply
of building stone
which the Wali
requires.
If I find out any-
thing more about
him I will let
you know.
I have been hans-
ferred, rather un-
expectedly, to

acknowledged
12/5/10 [illegible]

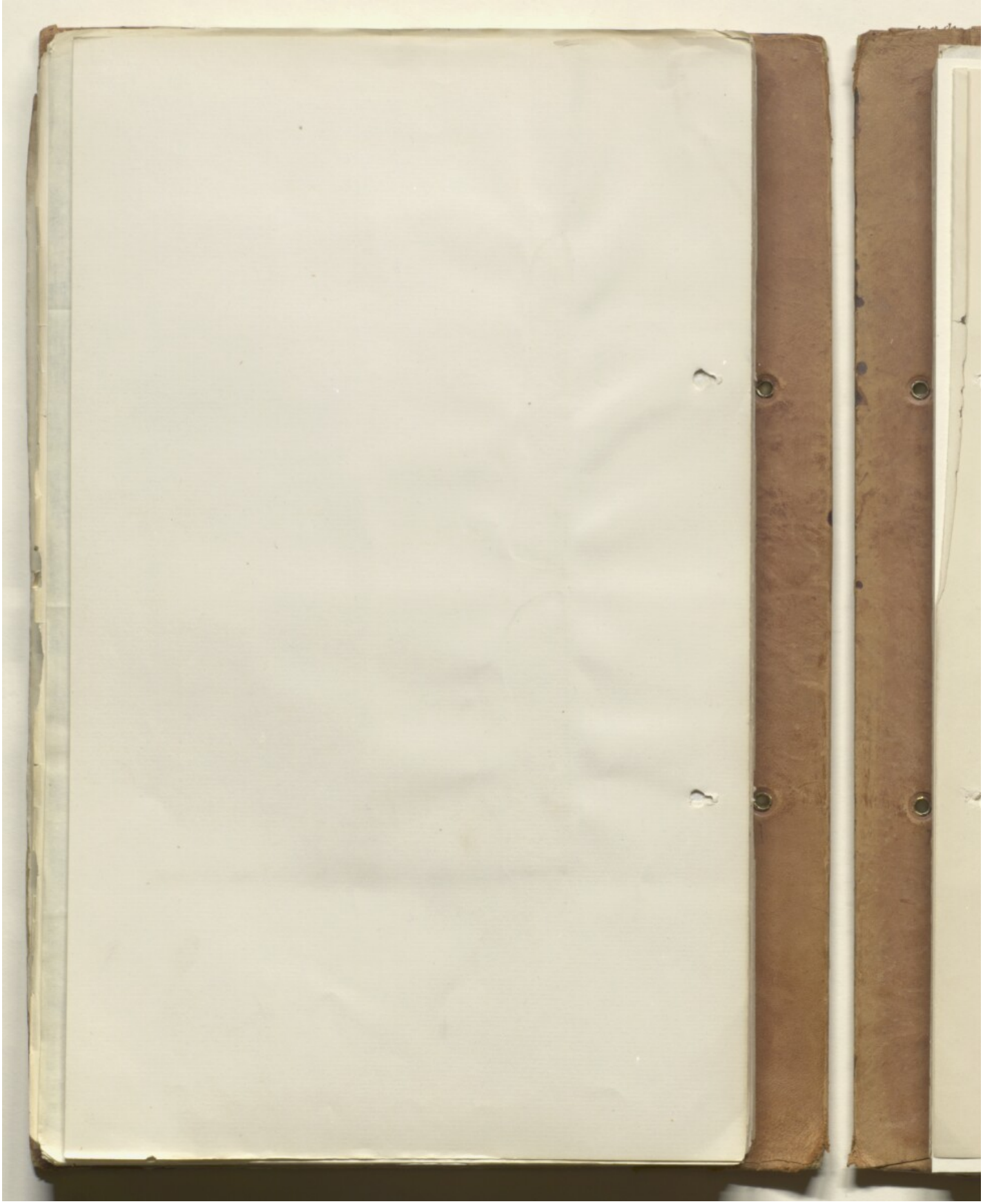
Rajputana & Ce
in ten days.
Am rather sick
as I wanted to
see this out.
Yours Ever.
R.G. Kan

(76)

81. 89

Rajputana & be
ten days.
in
Am Rather Sick
as I wanted to
see this out.
Yours Ever.
R. G. Ashton

Acknowledged
12/5/10



82. (77) 90

DRAFT—(For Approval).

CONFIDENTIAL

POLITICAL ~~RESIDENCY~~ Agency, ~~PERSIAN GULF~~ Koweit.

No. C.17

Dated ~~13 April~~ 13 1910.

To,

Political Resident,

Persian Gulf.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the correspondence ending with your Second Assistant's endorsement No 725 dated the 20th March 1910. page 84

2. It will be remembered I last reported the Sheikh as informing me that nothing had passed on the subject of the registration of his properties when he met the Wali of Basra during his visit up-river in February. I have since received a copy of Mr Consul Crow's despatch No 14 dated 9th March 1910 to H.M's Ambassador which gives a vastly different account of what passed at the same meeting. After receiving it I took an opportunity of leading the Sheikh back to the subject, when the Sheikh surprised me by giving me an account much the same as Mr Crow's, apparently oblivious of its contradiction with what he had already told me. I rallied the Sheikh on Abdul Wahab Kirkis's speech at the banquet, and the Sheikh laughingly replied that such sentiments were the usual accompaniment of similar entertainments and were but "words". They were useful as keeping the Turkish authorities pleased without being committal. page 78

3. At a subsequent interview, when the Sheikh came to see me immediately after his return from Failiyeh on the 8th April he was full of a second meeting he had

S 638—12,000-7-08

83. (78) 91

(Continuation of Note, Précis or Draft.)

just had with the Wali at an entertainment given by Abdul Wahab al-Kiraas at Seraiji. The Sheikh gave the conversa-
-tion as follows :— the Wali had condoled with him regard-
-ing the reverse suffered at Sheikh Sadun's hands and had then gone on to flatter and compliment him, after which the Wali had explained that the Ministry of the Interiror at Constantinople had asked him the following questions :—

(1) H ad Mubarak bought the Fadhagiya property really himself from Ahemd Pasha Zohair and had he paid the purchase-
-money? (2) what was its area and the price paid for it? (3) whether there were any claims by the state on any of the land? The Wali said that he had re-
-plied to these questions as follows (1) that Mubarak had paid the price at the time of the sale and had had possession ever since, (2) that the area was 460 "jaribs" and the price paid £T 48,700, (3) that the property was unencumbered and that the State had no lien on it, and that Mubarak already held property in the Basra Vilayet of an estimat-
-ed value of some 4 million Turkish Pounds. Having told him so much the Wali said that the Tapu Office would regist-
-er the transfers in his own name and that of his sons as he desired.

The Sheikh told me that the Wali did not explain what he asked on and, though he expected the usual condition (that a Turkish subject) Mubarak's registration as a Turkish subject was made by the Wali on this occasion. He therefore more-
-ly thanked the Wali and wondered what had brought about the change in his formerly hostile attitude.

4. If the above account is true and, from the fact that the Sheikh announced in his "majlis" on his return that the Wali had said his properties should be duly regis-
-tered, I am inclined to think it is, it would seem

S 639—12,000-7-08

(79) 84. 9 ✓

(Continuation of Note, Précis or Draft.)

either the Ottoman government has waived its objection or that the Wali has really convinced itself of Mubarak's bona fides in the purchase; whatever may be the case the situation seems to have improved considerably.

5. On my enquiring from the Sheikh whether he had asked Abdul Wahab al-Kirtas to approach the Tapu office again before the Wali's benevolent attitude should change he informed me that he had already told him to carry through the transfers, that he would on no account register himself as a Turkish subject though if the difficulty could be got over by registering the names of Nasir (his blind son) and some of his women-folk as Turkish subject he would have no objection. I pointed out that in view of the Wali's new attitude this would be unnecessary and I was almost sure would be regarded by Government as most undesirable. I added I was giving my own view in order that he might instruct Abdul Wahab al-Kirtas if he agreed with it himself, not to delay but that if he preferred I could write and obtain your opinion. As the Sheikh expressed himself willing to hear my opinion I went on to point out that the course was undesirable for the following reasons:- (a) none of the Sheikh's other properties were registered as belonging to a Turkish subject (i.e in the name of a person holding a Turkish Nationality certificate) with the exception of his Mutawiya gardens, page 71 as explained in para 10 of my letter C.7 dated the 18th January 1910, (b) that by taking out a certificate of Turkish nationality for any of his own family, he would create a precedent which had never hitherto existed, (c) that having done so would perhaps the Turkish authorities hold a strong argument that as the property is registered in the name of the Sheikh's son and family, and they are Turkish subjects, obviously the Sheikh recognizes himself and his property as under

S 639—12,000-7-08

(80) 85. 93

(Continuation of Note, Précis or Draft.)

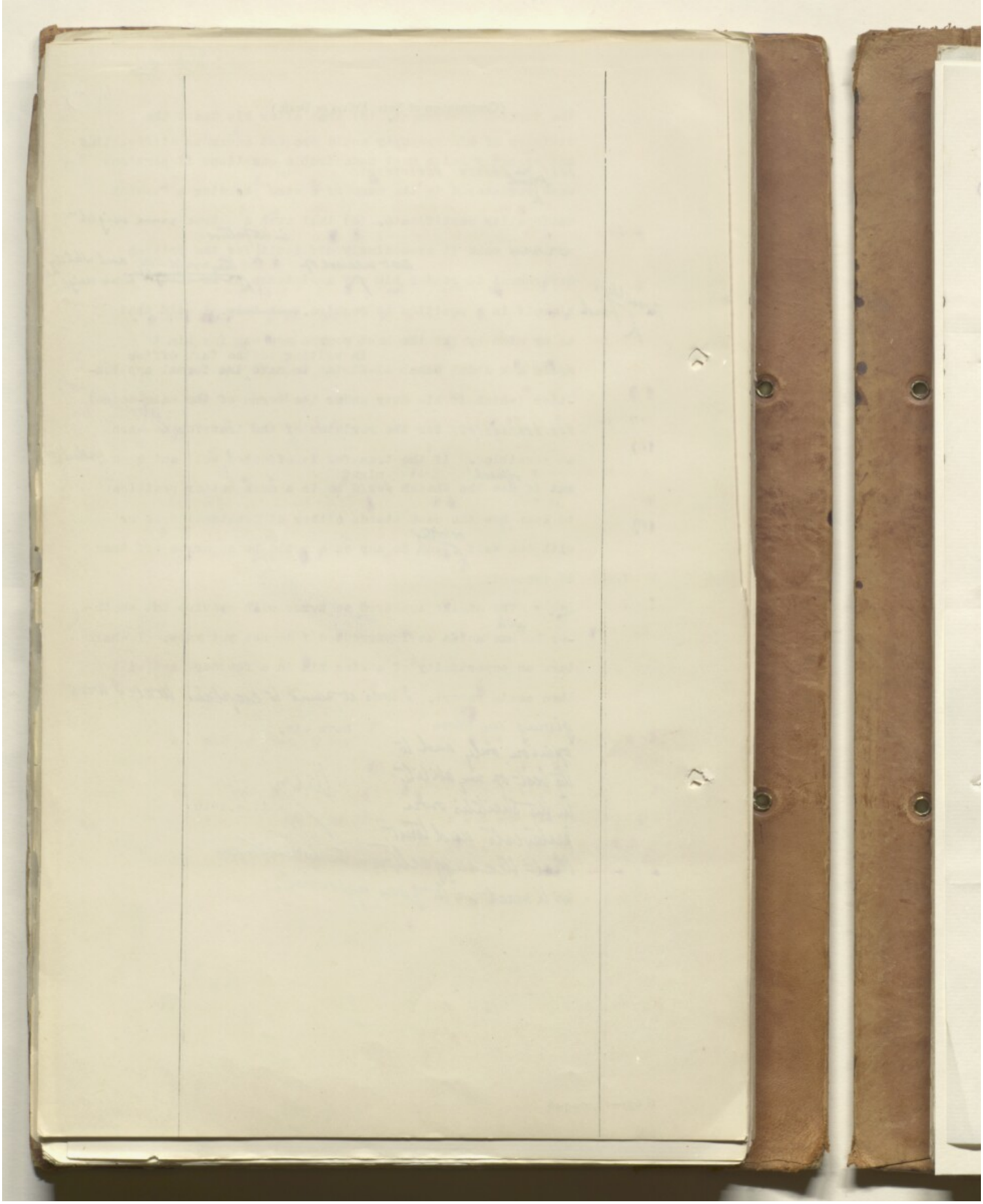
the Turkish Government, (d) that after his death the division of his property would present enormous difficulties and probably raise most undesirable questions if portions were found registered in the name of a son holding a Turkish nationality certificate, (e) that such a course might make it exceedingly difficult in the future for the British Government to render him any assistance that measure of they would like and which he might possibly find himself in a position to require. I said that to my mind by far the best course now was for him to ask Abdul Wahab al-Kirtas to make in writing to the Tapu Office a formal application (which is his duty under the terms of the sale-deeds) for the register of the transfer as soon as possible. If the transfer is effected, well and good, while if refused the Sheikh might be in a much better position to know how the case stands either at Constantinople or with the Wali or Vilayet, and in any case could be no worse off than at present.

The Sheikh appeared to agree with my view but whether he will act as I suggested I do not yet know. I shall take an opportunity of asking him in a few days and will then again report. I was at pains to explain that I was giving my own opinion only and to the best of my ability in the Sheikh's own interests, and trust that the suggestion in the circumstances will meet with your approval.

I have etc,

11.4.1910

S 639—12,000-7-08



CONFIDENTIAL

86. (87)

Mahommerah
5.4.10.

APR 15 1910

My dear Shakespear,

Shaikh Mubarak's yacht arrived at Mahommerah on the 4th inst, with the Shaikh on board. He proceeded to Failiyah, & thence with Shaikh Khazal on board to Basrah, where they both met the Wali at the house of Abdul Wahab Pasha on the Barraji canal. Mubarak had telegraphed to this effect from Fao. I am told, on the authority of Haji Raiz, who was present, that the object of Shaikh Mubarak's visit was to get the Wali's assistance in the following matters:-

(1) to ask the Wali to write to the mutessarif of the Muntafik ordering him to prevent this tribe from joining Saadun

(2) to get the Wali to arrange that no obstacle should be placed in the way of his numerous subjects at Fao, if they wished to go across to Kowait to join in military operations.

(3) to get the Wali to issue orders to his officials to prevent as far as possible other Arab tribes from joining hands with the Saadun.

It was arranged that the Wali should go down to Fao with Mubarak on the 6th in Mubarak's yacht, nominally to arrange about building a school there, but really (this is not certain but only supposition) to arrange verbally with the officials there in the sense of (2) above.

It was further arranged that they should return the same evening and dine at Failiyah with the Shaikh.

I am sending a copy of this D/O to Bushire. I need hardly say that the information was given me in strict confidence by H.E., & is not public gup!

The public idea is that Mubarak must be fairly confident, or he would not leave Kowait.

yours sincerely

A.T. Wilson.

P.S. Mubarak went to Fao with the Wali as arranged, returned Wednesday evening to Failiyah, & left on Thursday morning for Kowait.

Acknowledged 19/4/10
Will reply in File II/2 [illegible]

No. 979 of 1910.

87. (82) 95

Confidential.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 24 April 1910.

To

The Political Agent,

K O W E I T.

page 90

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to your letter No.C.17 dated 13th April 1910 regarding the registration of the transfer of the Fadaghia property.

2. The line you took in discussing the subject with the Sheikh as explained in paragraph 5 of your letter appears to me to have been correct.

3. As you are aware, I just missed Sheikh Mubarek in the Shatt-el-Arab on 7th April, but I enquired from Sheikh Khazal if he knew what had passed between Sheikh Mubarek and the Wali on the subject of the Fadaghia registration difficulty, and he replied that the Wali was still pressing Mubarek to register in his own name as a Turkish subject, but that the latter was firmly resolved not to do so, but was considering the pros and cons of registering in the name of his blind son.

Please maintain vigilance in regard to this matter and report any further information that may reach you.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

P. Z. Cox Lt.Colonel,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

(83)

90. 97

88. 98

(83A)

C-34

27-4-10.

My dear Shakespear.

Crow wrote last week.

"I am informed that a recent meeting between Wali & Sh. Mubarak, the former stated that he had received orders from the Minister of War & Minister of Interior that 20 people from

Kuwait were required for the gendarmerie service at Hassa. The Shaikh is said to have agreed. He has promised to give the men for the purpose required."

Please let me know if you can incidentally get any corroboration or refutation of this report.

Yours sincerely
P. Loraine.

(83)

90. 97

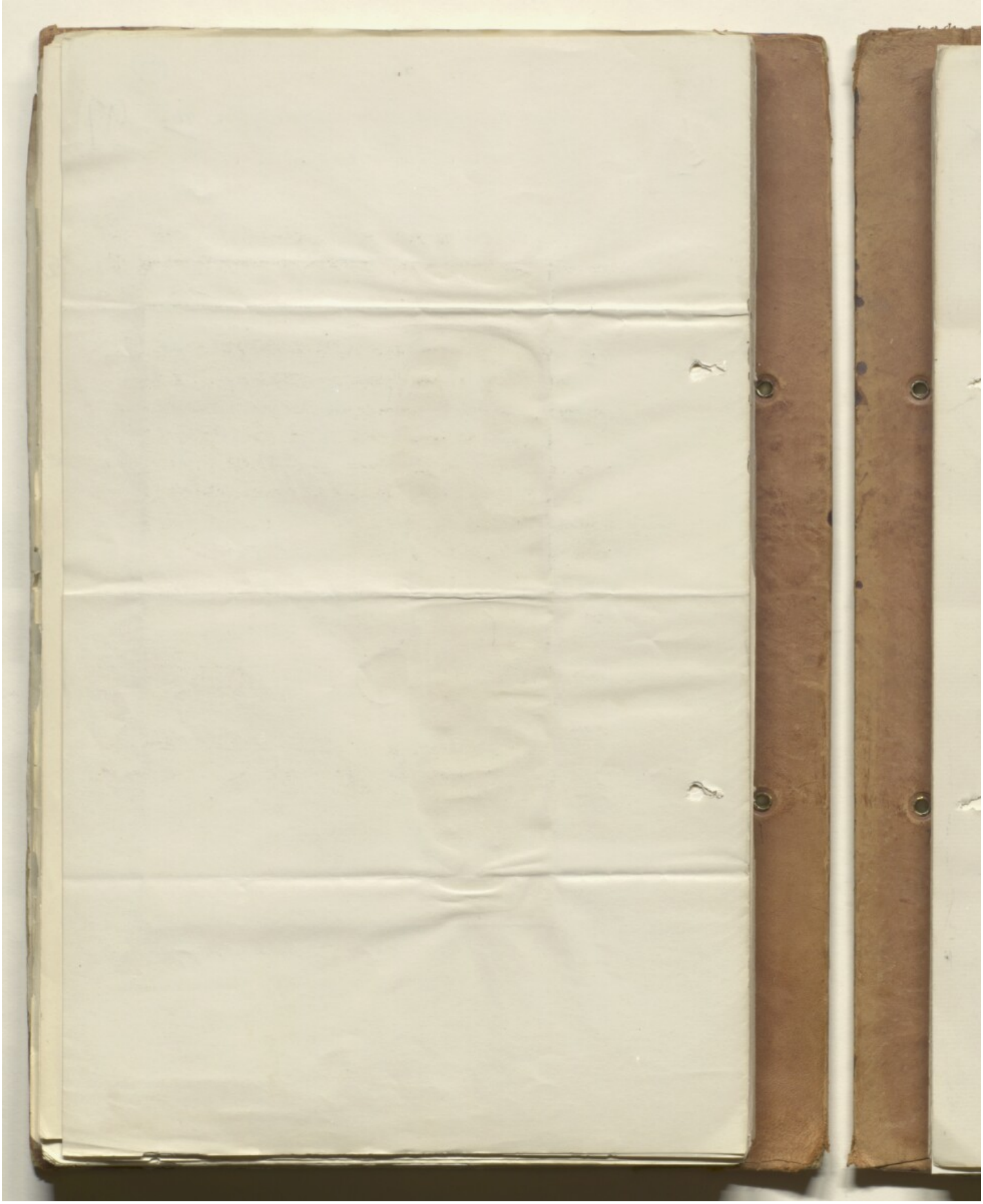
97

Kowait were required for the gendarmerie service at Hassa. The Shaikh is said to have agreed. He has promised to give the men for the purpose required".

Please let me know if you can incidentally get any corroboration or refutation of these reports from Hassa.

P. Loch.

89.



CONFIDENTIAL.

D/O

91 98 (84)

3rd May 1910.

My dear Colonel

page 96

Your D/O of the 25th April about the men from Koweit for the Hassa Gendarmerie. I asked the Sheikh if the rumour had anything in it and he replied that the last Basra newspaper (Arabic) had a paragraph much to the effect of your note. That the real facts were that the Wali had asked him to supply some men, 20 or 30, from Koweit for gendarmerie in Hassa, for whom the Wali would supply a commander, pay, food, clothing etc. The Sheikh said he had told the Wali that all his people were engaged on their own occupations, pearl-diving, fishing, boatmen, trading etc and so he had none on whom he could call for service of the kind required far from their homes, but if the Wali wanted Arabs, there were Nejada camel-men and the like from Central Arabia to be found in Koweit, the class of men who worked for pay with the bigger merchants etc. The Wali said that he did not want them, but Mubarak's own people upon whom Mubarak could have a hold, to which the Sheikh replied that he was sorry he could not help for the reasons already given.

The old gentleman is so crafty it is hard to guess how much of this is really true, but it is certainly the sort of answer he would make if unwilling.

Yours sincerely

[illegible]

92.
(85) 99

Telegram H.M's Consul Basra to H.M's Ambassador Consple

No. 12 April 18 1910

Confl. I learn that the Vali told Sheikh of Koweit during a recent interview that the Minister of War and the Minister of the Interior had sent orders to take from Koweit 21 persons for Gendarmerie service at Hassa, and that Sheikh Mubarek agreed to give them. Communicated to Bushire.

Telegram H.M's Ambassador Consple to H.M's Consul Basra

Your tel 12 April 18. Minister of the Interior declares that no such orders have been given. Can you ascertain if the contents of your message are confirmed by Koweit. by asking Bushire Resident

---

Telegram H.M's Consul Basra to H.M's Ambassador Consple

No. 18 April 28 1910

In reply to Y.E's tel April 23 Nothing to confirm my report has so far been received by the Resident. The Vali in the c course of conversation yesterday told me personally that the orders as reported in my tel. were sent by Min. of Interior at his desire. The Vali said they were worded as follows:- " to take 20 gendarmes and one sergeant from the tribes subject to the Sheikh of Koweit" The choice of men, so the Vali said , was left to Mubarek but he was

was

180

required to guarantee them.

My Russian colleague saw an announcement to the same effect in the Turkish newspaper " Iqaz. I also heard from the Mutessarif of Hassa who was present that the men were wanted for a gendarmerie camel corps at Hassa but he said they had not been collected yet.

No. 17

Copy forwarded to the Political Agent at Koweit through the British Resident at Bushire.

Basra

April 29 1010

H.M's Consul

MAY 5 - 1910

C.43

93.

Vol

(88)

MAY 5 1910

C. 41

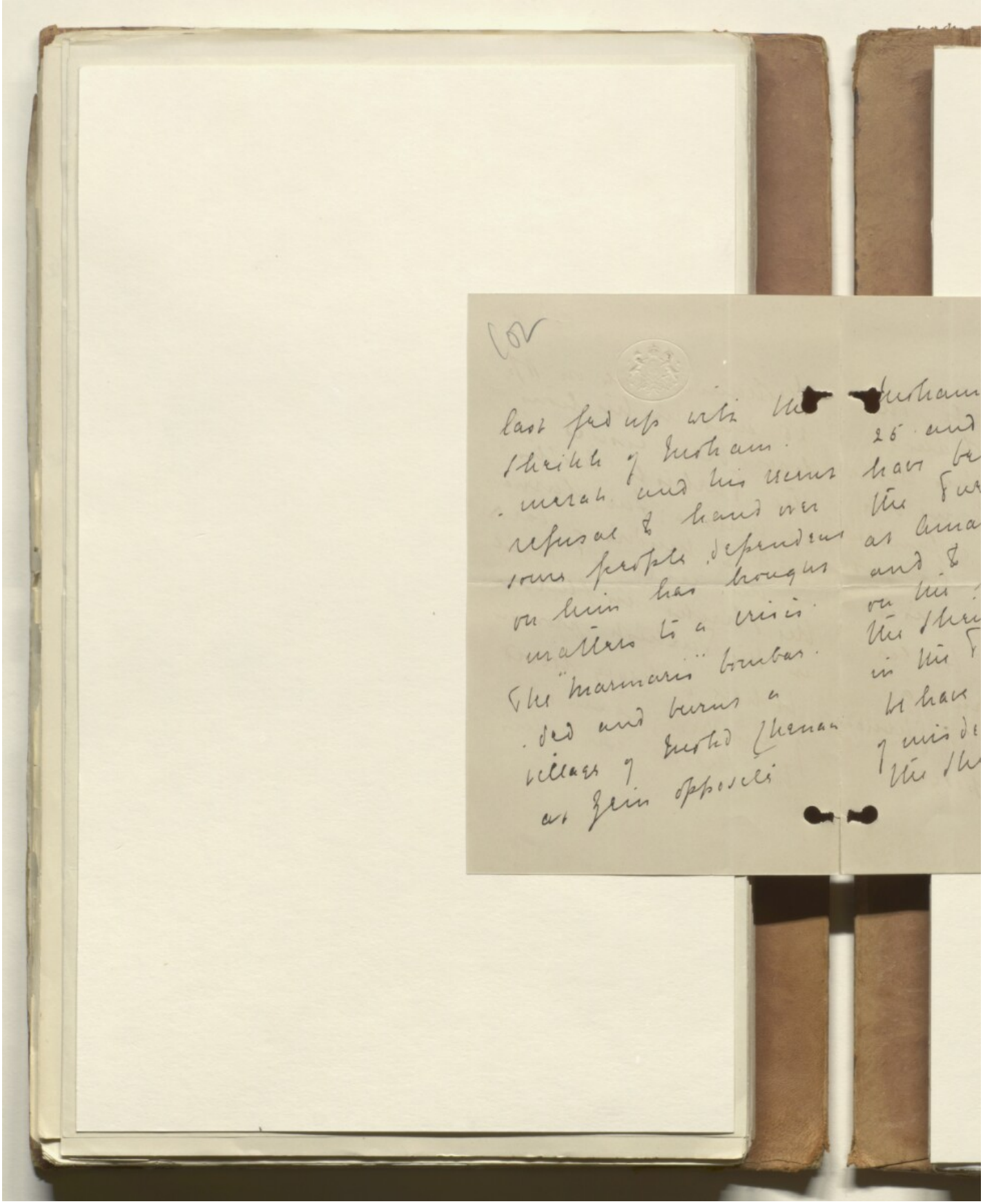
Basra.

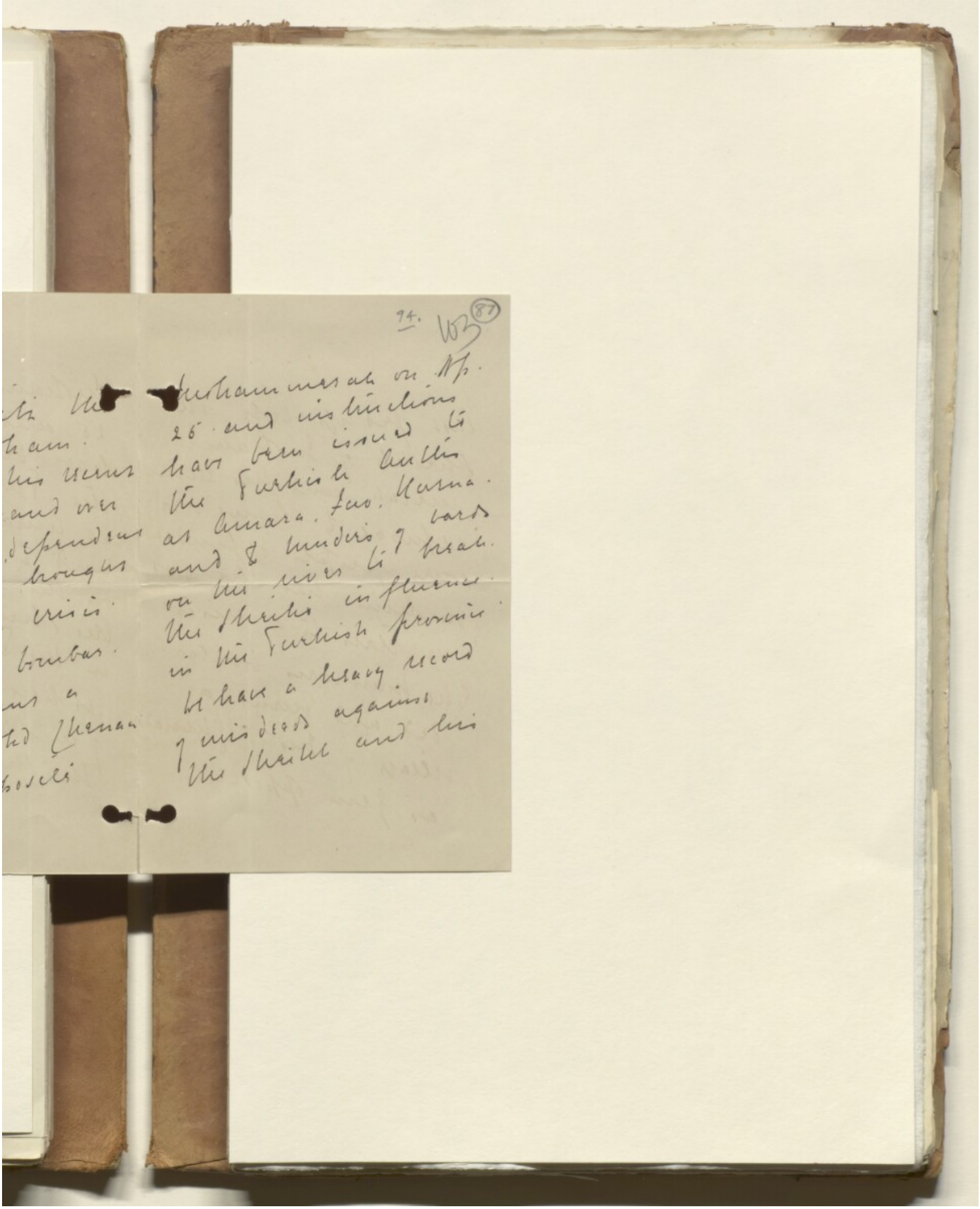
April 29. 1910

My dear Shakespear,

Many thanks for your letter with details of your lights. I have sent details to the commodore, and no doubt they will be up with them.

The Turks are as





184

Salisbury, but the
day of reckoning has
come at last.
I claim above the
gendarmerie question
and the proposed
intervention of the
Turks between Kuwait
and Sadun.
We reach you through
Bushire.
Yours sincerely.
Fergson

95. Kuwait

(88)

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 1278, dated Bushire, the 22nd (received 30th) May 1910.

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. Z. COX, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The HON'BLE MR. S. H. BUTLER, C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

I have the honour to enclose copies of correspondence which has passed relative to a demand reported to have been made upon Shaikh Mubarak by the Turkish Authorities at Basrah, for the supply of a number of Kuwait subjects for gendarmerie service in Al Hasa.

(1) Consul, Basrah, to Political Agent, Kuwait, No. 17, dated 29th April with enclosures.
(2) Resident, to Consul Basrah, No. 1135, dated 10th May 1910.
(3) Political Agent, Kuwait, to Resident, No. C-24, dated 11th May 1910.

2. It will be seen that Shaikh Mubarak claims to have successfully parried the Vali's suggestion, and this may be true, although the fact cannot be taken for granted. But this is only one of several straws which have recently served to indicate the direction of the wind, and I apprehend that, if it cannot be discouraged from the fountain head, the activity of patriotic Turkish officials in the Persian Gulf will at no distant date force us into issue with the Porte in connection with several matters in regard to which the forward policy of the new regime clashes with our own interests.

No. 17.

Copy forwarded to the Political Agent at Kuwait through the British Resident at Bushire.

BASRAH;
The 29th April 1910.

F. E. CROW,
His Majesty's Consul.

Telegram No. 12, dated 18th April 1910.

From—His Majesty's Consul, Basrah,

To—His Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople.

Confidential. I learn that the Vali told Shaikh of Kuwait during a recent interview that the Minister of War and the Minister of Interior had sent orders to take from Kuwait 21 persons for gendarmerie service at Hasa, and that Shaikh Mubarak agreed to give them. Communicated to Bushire.

Telegram No. , dated 23rd April 1910.

From—His Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople,

To—His Majesty's Consul, Basrah.

Your telegram, 12th April, No. 18. Minister of the Interior declares that no such orders have been given. Can you ascertain if the contents of your message are confirmed by Kuwait, by asking Bushire Resident.

Telegram, No. 18, dated 28th April 1910.

From—His Majesty's Consul, Basrah,

To—His Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople.

In reply to Your Excellency's telegram, April 23rd. Nothing to confirm my report has so far been received by the Resident. The Vali in the course of

conversation yesterday told me personally that the orders as reported in my telegram were sent by Minister of Interior at his desire. The Vali said they were worded as follows:—"To take 20 gendarmes and one sergeant from the tribes subject to the Shaikh of Kuwait." The choice of men, so the Vali said, was left to Mubarak but he was required to guarantee them. My Russian Colleague saw an announcement to the same effect in the Turkish newspaper "Iqaz". I also heard from the Mutasarrif of Hasa, who was present, that the men were wanted for a gendarmerie camel corps at Hasa but he said they had not been collected yet.

No. 1135, dated Bushire, the 10th May 1910.

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. Z. COX, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Basrah.

With reference to your note of 16th April and the enquiry made by His Majesty's Embassy in reply to your telegram No. 12 of 18th April, I have the honour to inform you that the Political Agent at Kuwait made enquiries from Shaikh Mubarak whose own version of what passed is as follows:—That the real facts were that the Vali had asked Shaikh Mubarak for some 20 or 30 men from Kuwait for the gendarmerie in Hasa for whom the Vali would supply a Commander, pay, food and clothing. Sheikh Mubarak said his own men were engaged in their own occupations and there were none he could call on for service of the kind required, far from their homes, but if the Vali wanted Arabs there were Nejada Camel-men and the like from Central Arabia to be found in Kuwait; the Vali said he did not want them, but Shaikh Mubarak's own people over whom the Shaikh would have a hold, to which the Shaikh replied that he was sorry he could not help for the reasons already given.

No. C.-24, dated Kuwait, the 11th May 1910.

From—CAPTAIN W. H. I. SHAKESPEAR, I.A., Political Agent, Kuwait,

To—The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

I have the honour to invite a reference to the telegrams passed between His Majesty's Consul at Basrah and His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople relative to a rumoured proposal that Kuwait men are to be sent to Hasa for service as gendarmerie in that province under the Turkish authorities.

2. I mentioned the rumour to Shaikh Mubarak during recent conversation and he informed me that a paragraph to the above effect had appeared in an Arabic newspaper in Basrah, having apparently been purposely inserted by the Vali, but that the facts were as follows:—The Vali had asked him to supply 20 or 30 men for gendarmerie in Hasa, for whom the Vali would provide a Turkish commander, pay, food, clothing, etc.; the Shaikh had replied that he could not call on any of his people for such service as they were all engaged in their own vocations, boat-building, fishing, pearl-diving, trading, etc., that if Arabs were required, no doubt Nejada from Central Arabia could be found in Kuwait, of the class of men who took service with well-to-do people; that the Vali had said he particularly wanted Kuwaitis over whom the Shaikh would have a hold, and to this he had replied regretting that he was unable to assist the Vali.

3. There is, however, a rumour in the town, which I think probably has its source in the newspaper paragraph mentioned above, that not only was a Kuwait detachment to be sent to Hasa but that a Turkish zabit and some men were to be posted to Kuwait. I have had no opportunity of asking the Shaikh regarding the latter, and on the face of it it seems most improbable.

Note:- Copy of C.24 d/11 5/10 sent to Consul Basra under Kuwait No C.25 d/11 14th May 1910.

G. C. B. P., Simla.—No. C-1379 F. D.—9-6-10—40—H. C. S. L.

Printed copies of the undermentioned communications forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, K O W E I T, for information and record.

Residency letters Nos 1278 & 1281 dated 22nd May 1910 (and enclosures).

BRITISH RESIDENCY AND CONSULATE-GENERAL,
Bushire, 25th J U N E 1910.

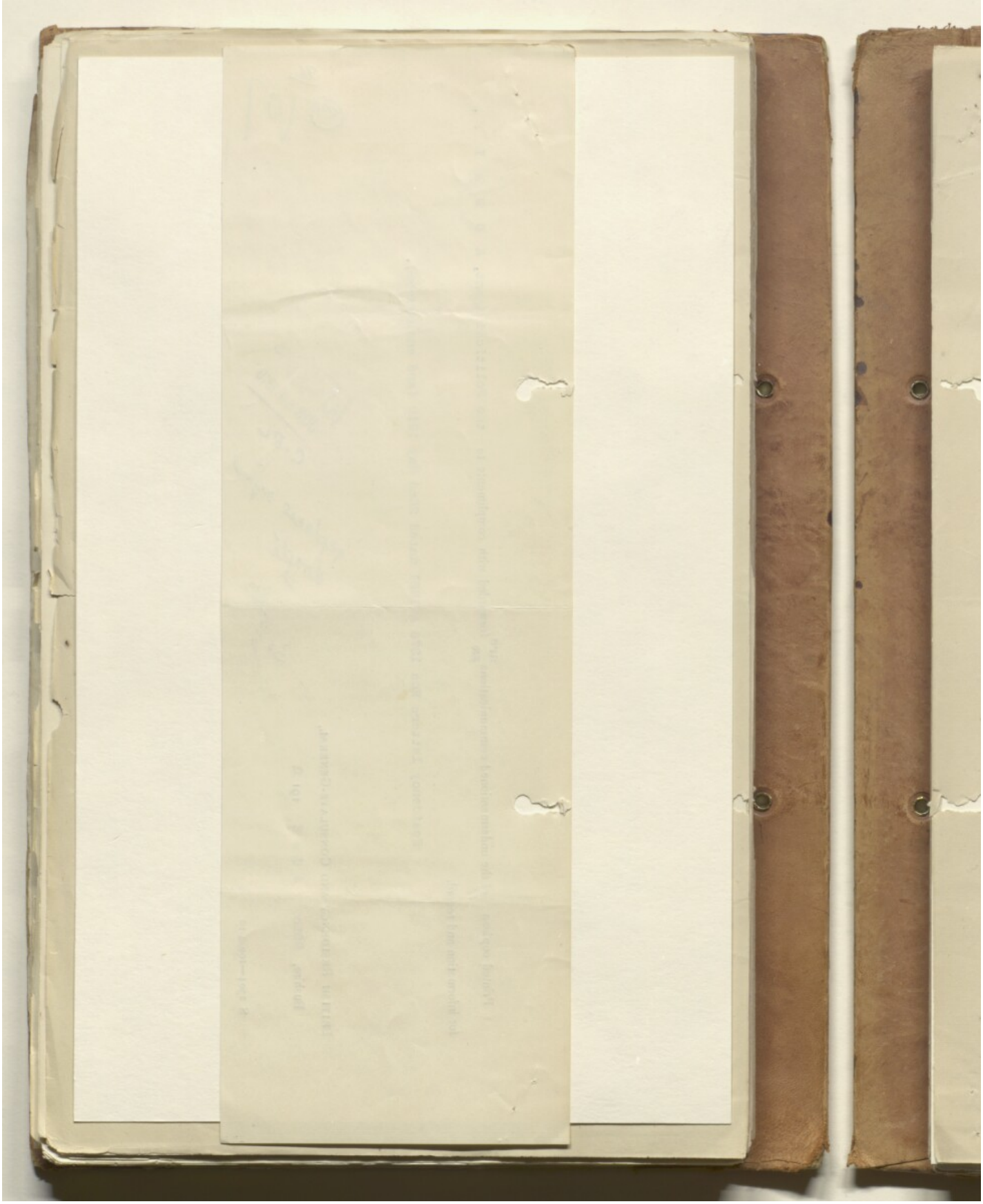
S 2304—100-4-10

(89) 96 107

JUN 30 1910

C.82

replaces original drafts



97. Koweit (90) 108

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 1281, dated Bushire, the 22nd (received 30th) May 1910.

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. Z. COX, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The HON'BLE MR. S. H. BUTLER, C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

File VIII 1 page

In continuation of the correspondence ending with my letter No. 984, dated the 24th April 1910 on the subject of the registration of the Sheikh of Koweit's Fadaghia property, I have the honour to forward, for information, copies of communications which have since passed in that connection.

(1) Koweit No. C.-20, dated 3rd May 1910.
(2) Koweit No. C.-26, dated 11th May 1910.
(3) Koweit Diary entry for the week ending 11th May 1910.
(4) Resident to Consul, Basrah, No. 1280, dated 22nd May 1910.

No. C.-20, dated Koweit, the 3rd May 1910.

From—CAPTAIN W. H. I. SHAKESPEAR, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit,

To—The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

Para 295

With reference to your letter No. 979, dated the 24th April 1910, I have the honour to report that I took an opportunity of reverting to the subject of the registration of his Fadaghia properties in a recent conversation with Sheikh Mubarak.

2. I reminded the Sheikh that it was necessary that we should be kept fully informed regarding the matter and enquired whether anything further had happened. The Sheikh replied that he had informed Abdul Wahab al-Kirtas in the sense of my suggestion to him and that his own Secretary, Abdul Aziz bin Salim, had been sent up to Basrah to see if the matter could be carried through. Abdul Aziz left Koweit on the 28th April and the Sheikh hoped to hear from him by letter in a few days, when he said he would let me know if anything had been done.

3. I also took the opportunity of again pressing on the Sheikh the undesirability of complicating matters further by registering any member of his family as a Turkish subject in order to have the transfer carried out under that person's name, as he had contemplated.

No. C.-26, dated Koweit, the 11th May 1910.

From—CAPTAIN W. H. I. SHAKESPEAR, I.A., Political Agent,

To—The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

above

In continuation of my letter No. C.-20, dated the 3rd May 1910, regarding the registration of Sheikh Mubarak's Fadaghia properties, I have the honour to report the following further information given me by the Sheikh a few days ago.

2. In reply to a query of mine, the Sheikh said he had just received a telegram from Ahmed Pasha Zuhair from Constantinople saying that orders were being issued by the Ministry of the Interior to register the transfer of the properties forthwith; and that nothing was said as to the previous registration of the Sheikh as a Turkish subject being necessary. The Sheikh added that the question had come up in the Turkish Chamber and the orders of which Ahmed Pasha had informed him were the result. Without further confirmation I cannot help thinking that the last statement is probably embroidery added by the Sheikh himself to enhance his own importance.

3. The current bazaar version of these orders is given in my diary for this week.

109

Extract from Koweit Political Diary, No. 19 for the week ending 11th May 1910.

9th May 1910.

It is reported that the Wali of Basrah has received telegraphic orders from Constantinople to grant Sheikh Mubarak Turkish registration papers for the Fadaghia and other landed property on the Shatt-el-Arab. The Sheikh has, it is said, received a letter from the Wali informing him of this. It is said the papers were refused to the Sheikh until he took Turkish nationality papers, and rumour suggests that he has complied with the demand; hence the issue of telegraphic orders.

No. 1280, dated Bushire, the 22nd May 1910.

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. Z. COX, C.S.I.,C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Basrah.

page 108

I have the honour to enclose copies of a letter and Diary extract received from the Political Agent, Koweit, on the subject of the registration of Sheikh Mubarak's Fadaghia properties, and request the favour of your communicating to me any parallel information in the same connection which you may receive in Basrah.

(1) Political Agent, Koweit, to Resident, No. C.-26, dated 11th May 1910.
(2) Extract from Koweit Diary, dated 9th May 1910.

G. C. B. P., Simla.—No. C.-1379 F. D.—9-6-10.—39—H.C.S.L.

Printed copies of the undermentioned communications forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, K O W E I T, for information and record.

(1). D.O. to Foreign Department, Simla, dated 29-5-10 and enclosures, re: Koweit and Turks;

(2). Residency letter No. 1522 dated 5-6-10 to Foreign, Simla, re: Wali of Basra and Shaikh Mobarek;

(3). Residency ,, 1523 ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, ,, re: Shaikh Mobarek and Shaikh Sa'dun.

BRITISH RESIDENCY AND CONSULATE-GENERAL,

Bushire, 3rd J U L 1910.

S 2304—100-4-10

98.

110

(71)

JUL 9 - 1910

C. 84

replaces original draft, destroyed

99. Koweit

(92) III

Dated Bushire, the 29th May (received 6th June) 1910.

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. Z. COX, C.I.E., I.C.S., Resident in Persian Gulf'

To—The HON'BLE MR. S. H. BUTLER, C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India, Foreign Department, Simla.

In connection with the general question of our policy at the head of the Gulf and the present relations of the Busreh authorities with Koweit and Mohammerah, I enclose for your information copies of certain demi-official correspondence.

Without putting too much value on the suggestions made, I think they are of sufficient interest, in connection with recent developments, to communicate to you.

Demi-official.

Confidential.

u. f. s. to Major Trever.

(Dated probably 30th September 1909 received 1/10 A. P. T.)

HIS MAJESTY'S CONSULATE,

Mohammerah.

My dear Shakespear,

The following secret information has been given me by Sheikh Atab, a local notable of good standing and for 20 years friendly and indeed intimate with the Consul here.

I have no means of testing his authenticity, and send it to you for what it is worth: it may very likely be stale news, or not true.

He came today from Failiyah, where he saw the son of the late Sheikh Salim (Bin Budar) who is now a scribe of Sheikh Mubarek and who has formerly been imprisoned in Busreh by the Turks. This man was said by Mirza Hamza to be planning a movement towards the reunion of Koweit and the Ottoman Empire. Sheikh Mubarek's son Jabir is said to favour such a movement. Mirza Hamza also said that there was talk in Busreh to the same effect, and that the Turks were thinking of sending an emissary to Sheikh Mubarek with this end in view; he was moreover believed to be not indisposed to consider the question.

Yours sincerely,

A. T. WILSON.

May 10th, 1910.

My dear Wilson,

I note from the file that on or about 30th September 1909 you wrote to Shakespear, u. f. s. through Trevor, relating some information given you by Sheikh Atab regarding a reported rapprochement between Koweit and the Porte.

Have you heard anything further on the subject since?

You might take an opportunity of sounding Sheikh Atab and let me know result.

Your sincerely,

P. Z. COX.

2

MOHAMMERAH;

25th May 1910.

My dear Colonel Cox,

Please refer to your demi-official letter of the 19th May, received 24th, regarding Sheikh Mubarek and the Turks. I happen to have seen Sheikh Atab a day or two ago, and he mentioned this topic to me, but had no more to add. The general opinion is that the present Wali has had orders to humour the Sheikh of Koweit and effect a rapprochement. The two are on very friendly terms and certainly the Wali's behaviour to Mubarek contrasts strongly with his attitude to Sheikh Khaz'al.

Yours sincerely,

A. T. WILSON.

G. C. B. P., Simla,—No. C1545 F. D.,—21-6-10,—10—E. A. D'S.

100.
Koweit
(93) 113

No. 1522, dated Bushire, the 5th (received 13th) June 1910.

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. Z. COX, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The HON'BLE MR. S. H. BUTLER, C.S.I., C.I.E., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the report from the Political Agent, Koweit (referred to in my telegram No. 579, dated 30th May), on the subject of the overtures of the present Wali of Busreh in the direction of inducing Sheikh Mubarak to agree to the installation of a land telegraph line from Busreh or Fao to Koweit.

No. C.-29, dated the 25th May 1910.

2. In this connection I venture to recall my letter No. 3593 of 27th December 1908 and to express the hope that an improvement in the financial outlook now makes it possible for the Government of India to take into lively consideration the question of a wireless installation at Koweit; especially if the parallel proposals regarding Bahrein and Bushire now before Government in connection with the arms traffic question are to be put into execution.

No. C.-29, dated Koweit, the 25th May 1910.

From—CAPTAIN W. H. I. SHAKESPEAR, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit,

To—The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

I have the honour to submit below some details which Sheikh Mubarak communicated to me in the course of a more than usually frank conversation, and which, in view of the recent appointment of Nazim Pasha, one of the able leaders of the new *regimé* in Turkey, to be Viceroy *de facto* of the three Vilayets of Mosul, Baghdad and Basra, may be of interest to Government.

2. Sheikh Mubarak said that once in a conversation the present Wali of Basra had suggested that the construction of a land telegraph line from Basra or Fao to Koweit would be a great convenience to the place; it would bring Mubarak himself into closer touch with his properties on the river and with the Wali and would afford the Koweit merchants greater facilities in their commercial dealings. The Sheikh told me he had disparaged the idea saying that apart from the initial expense which presumably would fall on the Turkish Government there would be constant trouble with the Bedouin, who would certainly be always cutting the wire and harassing the telegraph officials; also there was little chance of the scheme paying its way, for Koweit had a regular weekly post which sufficed for its needs and in the rare instances when a telegram was necessary it could easily be sent by post to Bushire and telegraphed thence or even direct to Fao by the water-boats always running to and fro thence. He said he thought the Bedouins would be an insuperable obstacle to a land wire whilst a sea cable which was the only way over that difficulty would be enormously expensive and would naturally have to be a British undertaking. He added that the Wali even discussed the possibility of connecting Al Hassa with Koweit and thence with Basra by a land wire and perhaps in the dim future running a line to Riadh and Hail. I asked the Sheikh if it was possible that the Wali could be speaking seriously of such schemes which he must be aware are at present quite impracticable for he has by now experienced at least some of the certain opposition of the Bedouin tribes. He said he did not know, but that Suliman Nathif Beg was a "great talker".

3. Another interesting detail was that the present Wali had dropped addressing the Sheikh as Kaimakam of Koweit, the previous practice of Turkish officials in their communications to him, and now he was usually styled "Rais" or "Hakim" of Koweit.

4. He also said that the Wali occasionally asked him why he had made himself subject to the English when his real interests were bound up with Turkey.

The Sheikh said he replied to this insinuation by explaining that he was not subject to the English Government; there was an old friendship between Koweit and the English from the time of his forefathers, and it was natural when the English had so much to do with the Persian Gulf; kept the peace there between various conflicting interests and safe-guarded the pearl-banks; when most of the trade in the Gulf was English or with Indian ports; when numbers of Koweit vessels traded directly with Bombay and Malabar coast ports; when their officers everywhere in the Gulf and India helped his subjects, as well as those of other Persian Gulf Chiefs, in their difficulties away from home. He was friends with the English as he was with the Wali and other Turkish officials.

5. I give the above for what it is worth, but venture to think that our position in Koweit is probably far more closely watched now by the new Turkish Government than it ever was before the Constantinople revolution. With reference to paragraph 2 above and the Wali's ideas on telegraphic connection it may be noted here that the Sheikh has more than once asked me why the British Government does not instal a telegraph office here, more particularly a wireless station for the use of the Political Agent. I have always explained that these schemes cost money and the British Government requires that they should pay their expenses; an office only to give the Political Agent better communication was quite impracticable, but if there was a fair prospect of sufficient return for the outlay from public use and the Sheikh himself desired it, no doubt they would consider the project. The subject has never been pursued beyond incidental conversation on the merits of quick communication and it is doubtful whether an office here would pay expenses for a long time after installation.

G. C. B. P., Simla.—No. 6. 1689 F. D.—21 6-10—44.—P. L. W.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(94) 101.

W.P.R. JUN 2- 1910 115

C.62

Mahommerah

26/5/10.

My dear Shakespear,

Shaikh Khaz'al told me yesterday that he hasd heard from the Wali that the Turks had been pressing him to grant a piece of land in Kowait for a telegraph office, & that he had at first given them a temporizing answer. Shaikh Khaz'al had lectured him on the danger of playing with the Turks like this, and pointed out that if he granted to the Turks the piece of land they desired, he would inevitably be drawn into conflict with the English. Mubarak allowed himself to be convinced, & gave the Wali a plain refusal the same night. The Wali, Shaikh Khaz'al says, was surprised at the sudden change of front, & deduced that Khaza'l had been"getting at"Mubarak He is said to have vowed vengeance, & remarked to Abdul Wahab Pasha that Shaikh Khazal, not content with the influence he already had in Turkish territory, was now trying to interfere between the Turks & Kowait, to the detriment of the former, & that he intended to put a stop to it. Hence recent troubles.

Khazal told me that when he remonstrated with the Shaikh of Kowait for being so compliant to the Turks, in various matters, Mubarak replied that he had got several things out of the Turks by obliging them in small things such as lending boats for stone,"discussing gendarmes"& etc., & that it was his policy to keep in with the Turks by raisng their hopes.

How far Shaikh Khazal's narrative is tinged by a desire de se faire valoir in our eyes, I cannot say, but it can scarcely be doubted that there must have been a substantial foundation for the telegraph station yarn, & Mubarak's remark about his policy with the Turks sounds true.

I have reported all this to Bushire by D/O today.

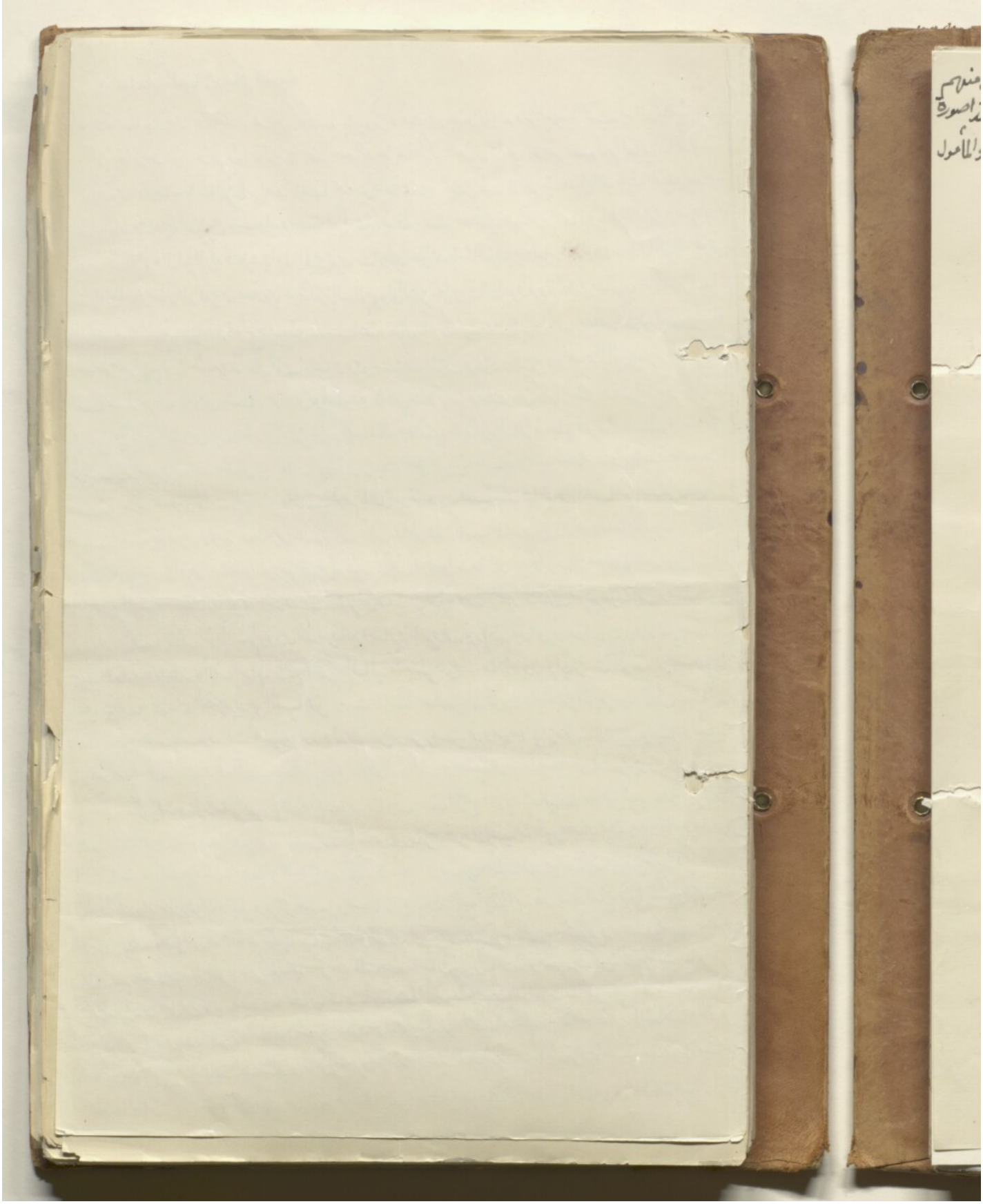
yours sincerely

A.T. Wilson

116 (95) 102

من مبارك الصباح حاكم الكويت

الى حضرة صاحب الشوكة والاجلال كرنيل كاكس باليوز وقنصل جنرال الدولة البريطانية الفخيمة الانكليزية في
خليج فارس دام بقاه امين عن خاطركم العزيز اني عرض لصوبكم العالي ان احمد باشا
الزهير وعبد الوهاب باشا القرطاس احدا اعضا مجلس ادارة ولاية البصرة اتوني الى الكويت وباع احمد باشا الزهير الفدا خيه
بمبلغ ثمانية واربعين الف ليرة وسبعماية وست ليرة عثمانية وارسلة معتمدي عبد العزيز السالم وياهم الى البصرة واخبروا الى البصرة
محرم بك وادعالنا في البركة ونحن في اول المشتري شارطين على احمد باشا الزهير ووكيله عبد الوهاب باشا القرطاس يغرغون
لنا بالطابو وصار المذاكرة من معتمدي عبد العزيز السالم مع والي البصرة على اوراق الطابو واروا الى البصرة معتمدي عبد العزيز السالم
ان ينحدر الى الملك وياخذ ذواريع يبينون مساحته حتى يامر يكتبونه في الطابو وانحدر معتمدنا المذكور اخذ ذواريع
اعطاهم مصرفهم لان مشروط على المصاريف وعرفوا مساحة الملك وعاد والبصرة وواجه والي البصرة محرم بك
المساحة وامره ان يخلص شغله من دوائر الحكومة كما هي عادتهم وخلص عن كلما يقتضي وحضر البايع والوكيل واقروا
في البيع وقبض الفلوس بعدها والي البصرة محرم بك افاد معتمدي عبد العزيز السالم انه جاني امر من اسطنبول انه اخر الفرغ
لاشعار الاخير ومن بعد مشتراي الملك ايضا من رعيتي اهل الكويت حسين واخيه شملان وابراهيم ابي مضف وهلال
اشترو ملك اولاد قاسم ابن ثاني وانكتب لهم بالطابو من دون طلب عثمانيات وانا ايضا قبل مشتراي هذا
بسنة اشتريه بزمن ولاية عبد الرحمن حسن بك ملك بالمطوعة انكتب باسم اولادي بدون ما يطلبون اوراق عثمانيات
وفي هذه الايام ورد امر من اسطنبول لولاية البصرة يغرغون الملك ارفعوا اشعار الاخير وارسلة معتمدي عبد العزيز السالم
لوالي البصرة الموجود سليمان نضيف بك بحسب تلغراف جاني من البايع احمد الزهير انه انعطا امر يغرغون لك ومتنع الوالي
الان ان ينكتب الملك الا باسم اولادي الكبار جابر وسالم وناصر وحمد وياخذون اوراق عثمانيات وعاد على معتمدي
بهذا الكلام ولم قبلة ذالك الا اني اراجع حضرتكم العالية وامتثل بموجب ما تامرون ثم اني رايت الطريق الاسهل كما
انني في هذه المدة الاطفهم لاجل التساهل ارسلة ايضا معتمدي المذكور الى والي البصرة ان يغرغون الملك نصف باسم
ولدي ناصر ونصف باسم البنات السبع وكون ولدي ناصر هو عزيز عندي من وجوه واني اراه قريبا للتقوى واجعله وكيل
على اخواته في ملك متحدين فمعتمدي عبد العزيز عرض على الوالي ذالك وامتنع الوالي ولم يقبل الا باسم اولادي الاربعة
ويأخذون عثمانيات ولما راينا الكيفية في هذه الخصوص انا وقفة حتى اراجع حضرتكم العالية لاني ما اعمل شي بدون امركم وراوتكم
وهذا شي ضروري لانه ما يعتبرون الملك الان باسمي لحد ميري ثمرة الماضية ما طلبوه مني اطلبوه من البايع ويجاوبهم
انا الملك بعته على الشيخ مبارك الصباح وانا ما قاعد يطلبون مني ولا يعتبرون الملك ملكي مع ان الملك بتصرفي واحرفة عليه
مصارف كلية بني عمار وكربان وبنا وغرس الفسيل واشجار واني في وقة البيع ايضا اخذة ورقة من البايع فيها شهود كل وجوه
اهل البصرة وبعد تكميل الورقة صدق عليها جناب قنصل الدولة الفخيمة الانكليزية في البصرة مسطر كرد وعندو اجهتي مع حضرتكم
العالية من بعد رجوعكم من الناحية حضرتكم العالية سئل مني قلت بعد ما صار فراغ بل انا الان الاطفهم قد يكون تصير بتسهيل وامر
حضرتكم العالية ان لا اقبل اولادي ياخذون عثمانيات وانا كان هذا الملك واعظم من هذا الملك ما اعمل شي خلاف رضاكم وخلاف
امركم واني واولادي وبلدي الكويتية واملاكي وشرفي الكل داخل في حماية كدولة الفخيمة الانكليزية كما هو مذكور بالمعاهدة وبالامر
ان املاكي ايضا داخلة في حماية الدولة الفخيمة فالان الامر وصل حده وهذا شي ضروري فاسترحم من حسن عدالتكم وحميتكم
ان تعملون الفكر الحسن الذي يحفظ ملكي عن التلاعب والخطرية لان ماني امين ان يخلفون افكار احمد باشا الزهير ومساعدة



بالتلاعب على مضرتي حاشا مراحمكم تقبل ذالك فاسترحم سرعة الجواب ليطمئن خاطري ودننا رينا بيانات منهم
توصلنا بالمستقبل وانا في انتظار امركم يوم اقدم حتى اكون مستريح البال بوجود انضمامكم العاليه علي وهذا صورة
الخط الذي جانا من وكيل احمد باشا الزهير عبد الوهاب باشا القرطاس حرفيا نشرفوه بانضمامكم العاليه هذا والمامول
حسن توجهاتكم القلبيه وعلى كل حال الاوامر لحضرتكم العاليه دمتم محروسين ١٣٢٤

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97A 104

حضرة الفخم سيدي العم صاحب السعادة الشيخ مبارك الصباح المفخم طال الله لنا
وجوده امين اما بعد عرض السلام وتقبيل اياديكم اعرض بعد دخولي
الى البصرة طلعة الضحا اخبروني عن تشريفكم تأسفت لعدم اجتماعي
بحضرتكم مخصوص فراغ الفداغية جا امر على الفراغ فبحسب العبودية
اتجاسر ان اعرض انه اغتنموا هذه الفرصة واجروا الفراغ على حسب
ما طلبتم سابق من ايام محرم بك ولا تفوتون هذه الفرصة
من يدكم لتأخير افات من كل الوجوه ان كان من قبل الحكوم وان كان
من قبل بك العم احمد باشا حيث انا متحري منه ان يعزلني عن الوكالة
فالذي ارى منكم لا تأخرون المسئلة الى يد حضرة احمد باشا معاملته
معي كلها قساوة واليوم ازيد من شهر ونصف ما يخابرني يخابر غيري
وعلى كل حال نظركم الاعلا سيدي شرفونا بخدمتكم واياديكم مقبلة
مولاي الخط على غاية العجلة

عبدكم
عبد الوهاب
القرطاس

٢٤٨
ج ١٦
٢٤

106.

Dated 26th Jemadi I 1328.

(5th June 1910.

(98) 119

From

Sheikh Mubarek es Subah,

Chief of Koweit.

To

Colonel P.Z. Cox,

H.B.M's Consul-General.

A.C.

I beg to enquire after your health. I beg to state that Ahmed Pasha el Zaheir and Abdul Wahab Pasha el Kertas came to me at Koweit and Ahmed Pasha el Zoheir sold (to me) the El Faddaghiyah (landed property) for the sum of 84706 (eighty four thousand seven hundred and six) Turkish Liras and I sent my confidential employe Abdul Aziz el Salem with them to Bassora and they informed the Wali of Busreh, Mahram Bey (of the sale) and he wished me prosperity (in the bargain). While making the purchase, I firstly made a condition with Ahmed Pash el Zoheir and his Agent Abdul Wahhab Pasha el Kertas that they should settle the Tapoo (official deed of purchase) for me. A communication was made by my confidential employe Abdul Aziz el Salem with the Wali of Busreh for the Tapoo documents, and the Wali ordered Abdul Aziz el Salem to go to the place where the landed property was situated, take surveyors with him and ascertain the area of the land so that it may be recorded in the Tapoo. My confidential employe went over there, taking surveyors with him and paying their expenses, as it was made a condition that I should bear these expenses- and the area of the land was ascertained and they returned to Busreh, where he (Abdul Aziz) met Mahram Bey and reported the measurement to him. He (Mahram Bey) ordered him to settle the matter in the Government Department as usual, and he (Abdul Aziz) did what was requisite. The seller and his agent appeared there and admitted the sale and the receipt of

the

the value. Afterwards the Wali of Busreh, Mahram Bey informed my confidential employe Abdul Aziz el Salem that he had received an order from Constantinople to defer the settlement until further orders. After this purchase was made by me, some of my subjects inhabiting Koweit (by name) Hussein and his brother Shamlan, Ibrahim bin Muzaffer and Helál purchased the landed property belonging to the sons of Kasem el Thani, and it was recorded in the Tapoo for them, without any demand being made for their Turkish Certificates of Nationality. Similarly a year before this purchase, I bought a landed property at Kotavvah during the Walishiip of Abdul Rahman Hassan Bey and it was duly written in the name of my children without their demanding any Turkish Certificates of Nationality. Now a days an order having been received from Constantinople by the Wali of Busreh to settle (the affair of the)landed property and the postponement until further instructions having been removed, I sent my confidential employe Abdul Aziz el Salem to the present Wali of Busreh Soleiman Nadhif Bey (to state that) according to a telegram received by me from the seller Ahmed el Zoheir, orders have been given for a settlement. The Wali refused to do so, however, unless the property is recorded in the names of my senior sons, Jaber, Salem, Naser and Hamad and they should take out Turkish Certificates of Nationality. My confidential employe returned with this reply. I did not accept this unless I should refer to you and act upon what you may order. Afterwards I found an easy solicitor for this matter - in the same way as I have been treating them with kindness for the sake of convenience- and sent my employe to the Wali of Busreh asking him to record one half of the propertt in the name of my son Naser and the other half in the name of my seven daughters, as my son Naser was dear to me for many reasons and I found him to be inclined to piety and I appointed him as guardian over the landed property belonging to them jointly. My confidential employe stated this to the Wali but the Wali refused and did not agree unless the property should be written in the names of my four sons who should take out Turkish Certificates of Nationality.

When

(100) 108. 121

When I saw that this was the case I postponed action until I should refer to you because I will do nothing without your order and desire. This is an urgent affair because they do not now recognise the property to be in my name and they did not even demand from me the Mirri (fixed land revenue) for the last year but demanded it from the seller who replied that he had sold the property to Sheikh Mubarek es Subah, but they did not demand it from me and do not recognise the property to be mine although it is in my possession and I have incurred considerable expenses in repairing, constructing buildings and growing date-palms and trees thereon; and I also took a document from the seller at the time of the purchase which contains the attestation of all the notables of Busreh and when the document was completed, the British Consul at Busreh Mr. Crow certified thereto. During my interview with you on your return from Naseri you asked me (about this) and I stated that the settlement has not been made as yet, but that I was treating them kindly as perhaps the affair could be settled more easily, and you stated that I should not agree to my sons taking Turkish Certificates of Nationality. Neither for the sake of this property nor for anything greater than this, will I take any action against your consent and order, I my sons my town, Koweit, my property and my honour are all under the protection of the exalted Government as mentioned in the Treaty and so it follows that my property also under their protection. Now the matter has reached the highest degree and this is an urgent affair. So I beg of your sense of justice and honour to find a good scheme which may prevent my property being played with and endangered as I do not feel sure that they will not misdirect the attention of Ahmed Pasha el Zoheir and will not assist him to play a dodge to do me harm. Your good graces will not agree to this and I beg to receive the favour of a reply which may render my mind easy as I have seen certain indications on their part which frighten me as regards the future- and I am awaiting your order at the earliest date so that I may be sure of receiving your high regards. Herewith you will find a true copy

of

109 (101) 122

of a letter which I have received from the Agent of Ahmed Pasha el Zoheir, Abdul Wahhab Pasha el Kertas, and I expect to receive your sincere considerations; and at any rate, it rests with you to give orders.

May you be preserved.

Copy of a letter dated 24th Jemadi I 1328 (3rd June 1910x from Abdul Wahhab Pasha el Kertas to Sheikh Mubarek el Subah.

A.C. I beg to state that after entering Busreh I went out in the forenoon and was informed of your arrival, I was sorry for not having met you. As regards the settlement of el Faddaghi yah affair an order has been received for the settlement to be effected. In consideration of my sincere regards I venture to tell you to avail yourself of this opportunity and have this settlement effected in the same way as you requested in the days of Mahram Bey, and do not lose this chance because delay will produce evil in every way - either on the part of the Government or on that of my cousin Ahmed Pasha, as I guess he will depose me of the Agency. I think you should not delay the affair. May God guide the Honourable Ahmed Pasha. His dealings with me are all of a hostile character and it is now more than 1½ months that he does not communicate with me, but communicates with another.

At any rate your opinion is higher and please favour me with your services. I write this letter in haste.

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112. 124
(102)

(102A) 110. 123

JUN 7 - 1910

Fao
4th June 1910

My dear Shakespear,

The Shaikh left here for Koweit last night. This morning a servant of his brought me a sealed letter from the Shaikh to the Resident and desired me to send it on in one of our covers and keep the matter very quiet. I pocketed the letter & it will go by tomorrow's mail. The Shaikh was evidently in Basrah to meet the Wali, or to meet Cross & Wilson.

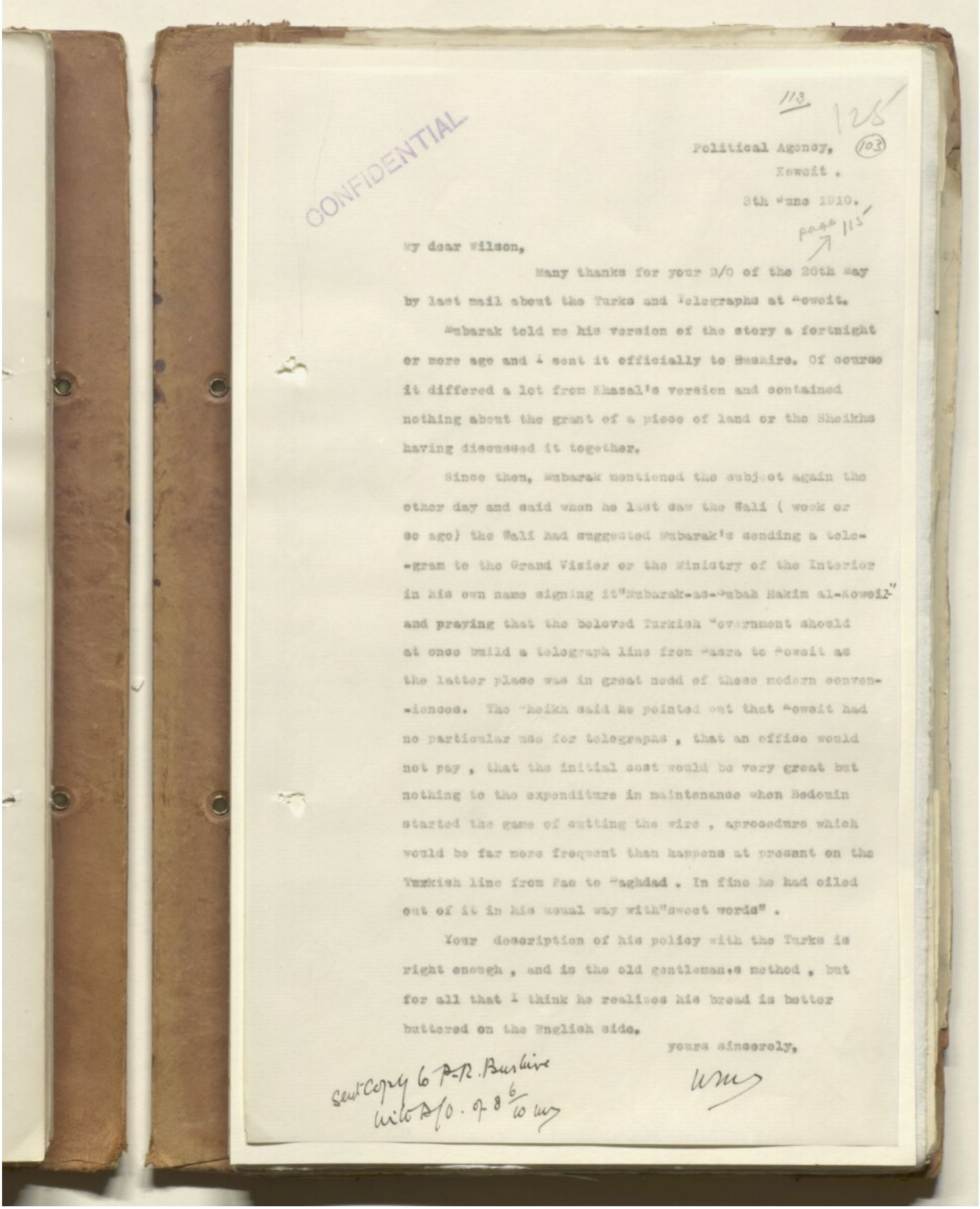
There is no news this side. They are going slow with our building. The Engineer is gone up to Basrah to

112. 124
(102)

111. 124

Cooper with the rabi about the building. It is
appears that the local Turkeys have had
a jolly row. They seem to have two camps
now! It is scorching hot here now.
We have had two poisonous days. I was
sedy for a couple of days after you left
but am quite all again and going
strong. Trust you are quite all.

Yours sincerely
R.W. Holes.



CONFIDENTIAL

113 125

Political Agency, (103)
Koweit.
8th June 1910.

page 115

My dear Wilson,

Many thanks for your D/O of the 26th May by last mail about the Turks and Telegraphs at Koweit.

Mubarak told me his version of the story a fortnight or more ago and I sent it officially to Bushire. Of course it differed a lot from Khazal's version and contained nothing about the grant of a piece of land or the Sheikhs having discussed it together.

Since then, Mubarak mentioned the subject again the other day and said when he last saw the Wali (week or so ago) the Wali had suggested Mubarak's sending a tele-gram to the Grand Vizier or the Ministry of the Interior in his own name signing it"Mubarak-as-Subah Hakim al-Koweit" and praying that the beloved Turkish Government should at once build a telegraph line from Basra to Koweit as the latter place was in great need of these modern conven-iences. The Sheikh said he pointed out that Koweit had no particular use for telegraphs, that an office would not pay, that the initial cost would be very great but nothing to the expenditure in maintenance when Bedouin started the game of cutting the wire, a procedure which would be far more frequent than happens at present on the Turkish line from Fao to Baghdad. In fine he had oiled out of it in his usual way with"sweet words".

Your description of his policy with the Turks is right enough, and is the old gentleman's method, but for all that I think he realises his bread is better buttered on the English side.

Yours sincerely,

WMS

Sent copy to P.R. Bushire with D/O. of 8/6/10 WMS

114 (104) 126

DRAFT—(For Approval).

CONFIDENTIAL

POLITICAL RESIDENCY, PERSIAN GULF.

No. C3S

Dated 8th June 1910

To,

Political Resident,

Bushire.

Sir,

I have the honour to invite a reference to the correspondence ending with my letter No C.26 dated the 11th May 1910 regarding Sheikh Mubarak's property at Fadhagiya.

2. On his return from Basra where the Sheikh had met the Wali, he informed me that he had sent a long and urgent letter to you from Fao giving the latest demands of the Turkish officials. The Sheikh also furnished me with a copy of his letter to you of the 26th Jamadi-al-Awal 1328, together with a copy of its enclosure.

3. The case is very plainly set out in the Sheikh's letter and it is therefore unnecessary to repeat its purport here. Sheikh Mubarak for some reason, which I cannot at present divine, was most anxious that I should see the original of Abdul Wahab AlKirtas' letter (a copy of which accompanied the Sheikh's letter) and inform you that I had done so. He seemed to attach great importance to the advice tendered by Abdul Wahab al-Kirtas not to delay in registering the property although it necessitated my compliance with the Turkish demands as a necessary preliminary.

4. The Sheikh said he was most anxious, for Abdul Wahab's letter showed that for some reason Ahmed Pasha Zuhair did not seem to be as well disposed to Abdul Wahab al Kirtas as he used to be, and that he caused trouble the Sheikh would be left without a remedy. The Sheikh by this insinuation means really that Ahmed Pasha Zuhair, from the members of family whose the property was purchased, [illegible]

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115.

(105) 127

(Continuation of Note, Précis or Draft.)

is in such a position that the Turkish Law will help him at every turn if the case came to dispute. It will be advantageous to the main parties separate to recall that 4 sale-deeds were executed, that nearly all the property really belonged to women of Ahmed Pasha's family; that he was their original attorney; that he then constituted Abdul Wahab al-Kirtas as his attorney for the sale to Sheikh Mubarak; that the property still stands in the names of some 10 different persons in the books of the "Tapu" (land registration) office; that the purchase price has been paid over in full and further heavy expenditure incurred by the Sheikh on improvements, buildings etc. Consequently if Ahmed Pasha Zuhair either as the result of Turkish intrigue or through personal greed, induced laid claim to the property, repudiated the sale, or any of the persons concerned to repudiate either power of attorney or the sale of their own particular portion, the only course for Sheikh Mubarak would be to file a suit in the Turkish courts. If he did so in order to establish his rights, he is at once face to face with entries in the Land Record office books showing the property as still belonging to the Zuhair family. Moreover without a Turkish nationality certificate it is a question whether he could even plead in the Turkish courts. Mr. Consul Crow gives the legal position very clearly in his despatch No 6 to H.M's Ambassador at Constantinople dated the 12th February 1909, a copy of which was forwarded to me under your office endorsement No 2667 dated the 24th October 1909 and I would invite a reference thereto; it will be seen from this despatch how helpless Sheikh Mubarak would be in the event of the Fadhagiya property becoming a subject of litigation. This insecurity will continue so long as the transfers are not legally effected in the "Tapu" office records.

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5. Since the revolution in Constantinople I am in-

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(106)

informed that

(Continuation of Note, Précis or Draft.)

the greatest strictness has been observed and insisted upon in all matters in which the laws require that nationality should be proved. In the case of land transfers this rule is complied with by the persons desiring the transfer to his name producing his certificate of Turkish Nationality. This law which I understand is not to be a new one by any means used to be freely evaded under the old regime and with comparative ease, but that evasion has now become impossible.

6. Though the transfer of the Fadhagiya property was originally prevented for political reasons, those have now been sufficiently explained by the present Wali not to exist, in so far that he has satisfied himself that the purchase was not effected with British gold. Accordingly the wali asked the authorities in Constantinople to rescind their previous order of suspension, and this request has been approved. It was to this rescission that my letter page 108 of No C-26 dated the 11th May 1910 referred. The crux of the position now is that the law does not allow of a legal transfer without the admission of Turkish nationality and the Wali would seem to be perfectly correct in his attitude when he informs Sheikh Mubarak that he may effect the transfer to-morrow if he wishes but that the law requires the production of a "teskereh" of Turkish nationality by the person to whom the transfer is to be made. His Majesty's Consul at Basra may be able to verify if this view is substantially correct.

7. With regard to the Wali insisting on the transfer being made to the names of Sheikh Mubarak's four sons I am informed by the Sheikh's secretary that this request has arisen through the fact that when the property was first purchased, the Sheikh desired it to be registered in the names of his four sons and the preliminary arrangemnets were all made accordingly until the whole matter was stopped by the orders of suspension from Constantinople. Since then the Sheikh has changed his mind and wishes the property

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117 (107) 129

(Continuation of Note, Précis or Draft.)

property to be insctribed in the nmae of his blind son Nasir and his seven daughters. This, hoever, appears to me to be a matter of detail which could probably be got over when the primary question of the necessity for registra-tion as a Turkish subject is solved.

8. As his letter to you shows, the Sheikh is exceedingly anxious, for there is now no way out of the difficulty. He has not, so far, registered any of his family as Turkish subjects, though I fear that his apprehension for the security of his property worth nearly £80,000, may before long induce him to comply with the Turkish demand, perhaps unknown to us until too late, and it is for this reason I should be glad of something of a re-assuring nature which I can communicate to the Sheikh. I have told him I am putting the matter before you in detail and advised him to await the decision of His Majesty's Government.

9. Though an unpleasant question to handle in view of the regeneration of Turkey it would seem that we are now confronted with the solution of the position of Koweit as between an independent Sheikhdom or a vassal appendage of Turkey. The Sheikh is an old man, anxious not to lose a valuable property nor its revenues during his own life-time, and, in the absence of some solid assis-tance which will permanently relieve him of his present difficulty, is quite capable of safe-guarding his undoubted rights by compliance with Turkish demands and pleading "force majeure" to us. I was told once that he had himself cynically remarked that it would be for his son Jabir and not for him in his own lifetime to fight out the position of Koweit between the Turks & the English

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118. (108) 130

(Continuation of Note, Précis or Draft.)

and ~~though~~ while he thanked God it would be so, he pitied Jabir. The present Wali of Basra loses no opportunity of trying to bring Turkish influence actually into Koweit, witness, the Koweit-Basra telegraph scheme, the suggestion for Koweit gendarmerie under Turkish officers for Al Hassa, and the very frequent & friendly meetings between Sheikh Mubarak and the Wali.

10. That Sheikh Mubarak is aware his port & ~~the~~ country should lose by definitely becoming subject to Turkey is ~~to pass~~ a thing, but he has now reached ~~the~~ an age (some 72 years) when he is also inclined to favour a prospect ensuring him ease & freedom from Turkish worries during his ~~own lifetime~~ remaining years and to say ~~quite the worst~~ nous le add "après ~~nous le~~ déluge."

I have etc.

W.

S 639—1 2,000-7-08

119. (109) 131

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 1543 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 7th June 1910.

JUN 10 1910 C.66

To

The Political Agent,

K O W E I T.

Sir,

page 108

With reference to the correspondence ending with your letter No. C.26 dated 11th May 1910, I have the honour to forward copies of the papers marginally cited relating to the questions at issue in connection with the transfer of the Fadaghia property.

Letter from Sheikh Mubarek to Resident dated 5th June 1910.
Telegram No. 610 dated 7th June from Resident to Foreign.
Letter No. 203 dated 7th June 1910 from Resident to Sheikh Mubarek.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

P. Z. Cox Lt. Colonel,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

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Telegram.

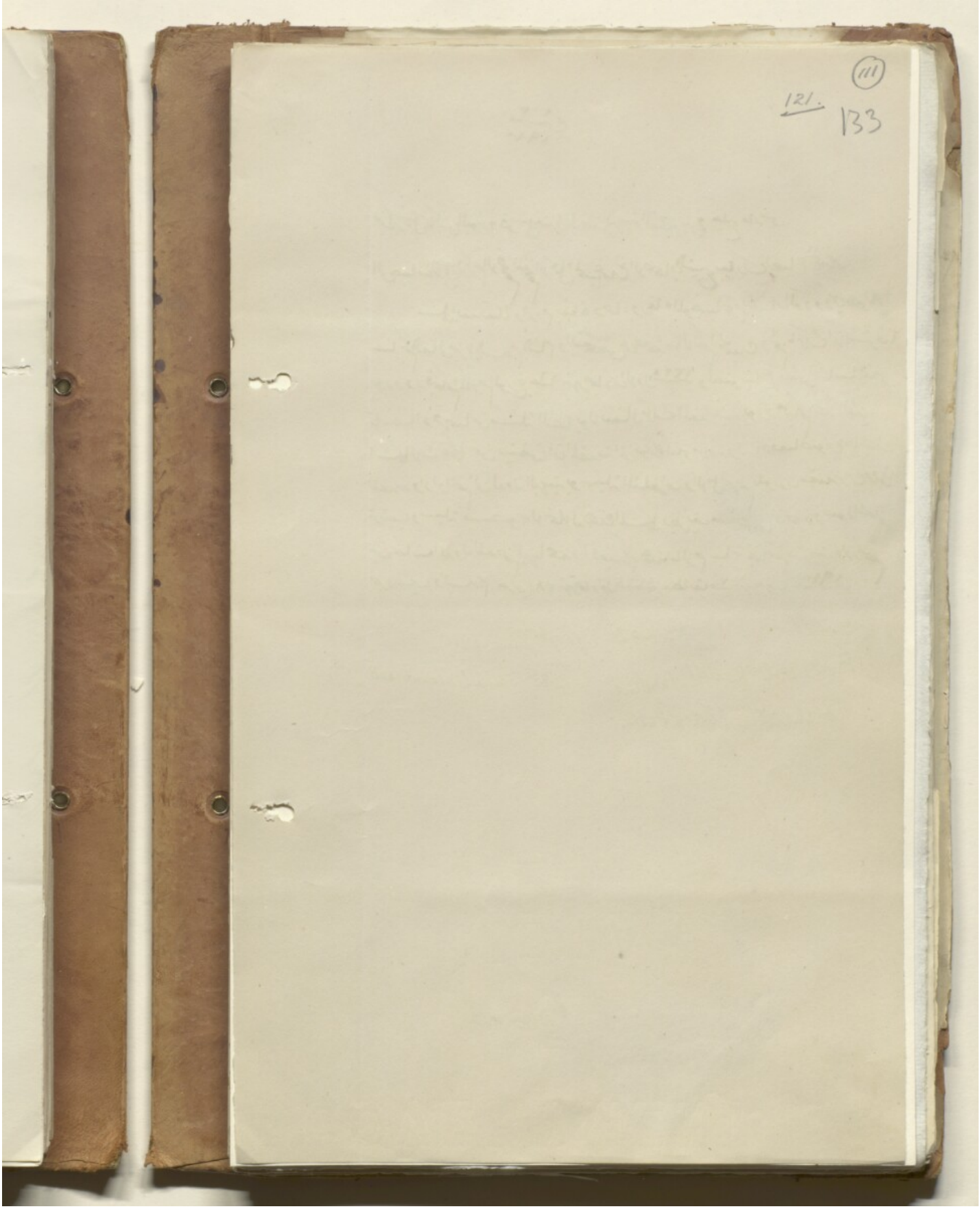
From Resident Bushire.

To Foreign Department, Simla.

No. 610 Dated 7th June 1910.

Please see correspondence leading up to my No. 1281 dated 22nd May. Sheikh of Koweit went to welcome Wali on latter's return from Baghdad and now writes at length under date 5th June to the effect that question of registration of property has now reached an impasse, seeing that Wali declines to modify demand that as sine qua non to registration of property, the four elder sons of Sheikh should register themselves as Turkish subjects. Mubarek apprehends that Turkish authorities aim is to upset transaction altogether a course which will put him to heavy loss. He states that owing to certain indications on the parttof the Turkish authorities the future gives him cause for alarm; and that the present matter has assumed urgency and that he looks to us to think of means for safeguarding his interests in view of our treaty obligations to him. Am posting a copy today to Consul Busreh.

COX.



327

نمره ٢٠٣
١٩١٠

من كرنبل كاكس بالبوز وقونسل جنرال الدولة البهية القيصرية في خليج فارس

الى جناب الاجل الاكرم الافخم المعظم الاكمل المحب عمدة الاصحاب الشيخ مبارك الصباح المحترم

سلمه الله تعالى وادام بقاه وحماه ورعاه الموجب لتحرير الكتاب الودودي هو ابلاغ
جنابكم العالي جزيل السلام التام والتفحص عن صحة حالاتكم الحميدة وثم بادرت آن تشرفنا
بورود رقيمكم المكرم المورخ ٢٦ شهر جمادي الاول ١٣٢٨ واحتوينا على مضمونه اننا كثير
تاسفنا اذ فهمنا من مسئلة الطابو لانتقال ملك الغداغيه يورد عليكم هذه القدر
اشكالات فكما نحن نتيقن ان المقدمة المزبورة كثير مهمة وانتا رفعنا صورة حالية
المقدمة واراداتكم الى الدولة البهية بوسيلة التلغراف والامل انهم يكونون مقتدرين يعملون
ترتيب وسيلة مستصوبة لانحلال هذه المشكلة بطريق مستحسن وبمجرد وصول العلم
من جانب الدولة المعظم اليها مجددًا نفيدكم هذا ما لزم بيانه لجنابكم الشريف ولازلتم
محروسين والسلام حرر في ٢٨ شهر جمادي اول ١٣٢٨ مطابق ٧ شهر جون ١٩١٠

No 203 dt/ 7th June 1910
28th Jamadi al awal 1328

From Pol: Resdt, Bushire
To Sheikh Mubarak.

122 (112) 134

No. 203

Dated 7th June 1910.

To

Shaikh Mubarek es Subah.

Koweit.

page 116

A.C.

Your esteemed letter of 26th Jemadi I 1328 duly reached me and I understood its contents. I am very sorry to learn that the question of the registration of the transfer of the Fadaghia property is giving you so much difficulty. I know well that the matter in question is a very important one and have represented the present state of the case and your requests to Government by telegram, and trust that they will be able to devise wise means of achieving a satisfactory solution of the difficulty. I will write again directly I receive news from them. May you be preserved.

(Sd) P.Z.COX, Lt .Colonel.
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

Confidential

123.

Mahommerah

June 4th 1910.

W/98 JUN 10 1910 c.44 135 (113)

My dear Shakespear,

Shaikh Khazal called on me yesterday, & took occasion, as is not uncommon with him now, to discuss his friend Mubarak's action at some length.

He said that Mubarak, though he went up to Kut el Firang to greet the Wali, & had his private secretary Abdul Aziz bin Salim playing round the Wali all the last two days, had failed to achieve his object- the registration of the Feddaghia lands . The Wali had insisted on him registering all his sons as Turkish subjects as a preliminary condition. Mubarak offered him his daughters, & Nasir, as a substitute, but the Wali was not satisfied with this.

Now it appears that Mubarak is absolutely fed up with the Turks & says he is not going to have any more to do with them, or see the Wali any more: he will come up the Shatt el Arab as usual but never again bother the Wali. As you know, Mubarak has twice been on board the Turkish vessel the Marmaris, but Shaikh Khazal says that it will not recur

The Shaikh expressed some nervousness as to the possibility of the Turks beginning to annoy Mubarak like they have been annoying him himself.

He emphasized, & told me to tell the Resident, that Mubarak was simply an Arab, with Arab ideas, & that we must not pay too much attention to his little political games with the Turks: it was all his simplicity.

I expect that Mubarak asked him to say a good word for him to us, as he is perhaps a little nervous as to the possible effect of the aforesaid "bazi-i-politika" on us.

Replied to with File XII 3 page

yours sincerely

A.T. Wilson

The Shaikh told me that he had good information that the Saadun were getting disorganized, & that Mubarak would be able to scatter them without firing a shot, same as the Shaikh of Mahommerah did to the people of Hawizeh- waited till dissensions among them had done his work for him.

124 (114)

Eschract: from "Al Moayed," published in Cairo, dated 19th May 1910. 136

البصرة

في ٢٠ ربيع الثاني سنة ١٣٢٨

لمراسلنا الفاضل

اعتاد العصاة منذ القديم أن يجعلوا ثغر المحمرة التابع لحكومة ايران ملجأ لهم من مطاردة الحكومة العثمانية ، وطالما امتنع الشيخ خزعل أمير المحمرة من تسليم هؤلاء الى الحكومة

ولقد حدثت أخيرا حادثة من هذا القبيل وذلك ان قرويا يدعي نوبي اعتدى على بعض نواحي البصرة وقتل المرحوم قاسم أفندي صاحب جريدة (اظهار الحق) التي تصدر في البصرة بينما كان الصحافي يتنزه في أرضه الواقعة على الحدود الايرانية ولما طلبت حكومة البصرة من الشيخ خزعل تسليم هذا القاتل وأمثاله أخذ يماطل ويسوف فأصدر سعادة الوالي سليمان نظيف بك أوامره الى سفينة مرماريس الحربية أن تتوجه الى (كوت الزين) حيث يقيم محمد الكنعان أحد أتباع الشيخ خزعل وأن تطلق عليها النار ، وكذلك كان وقد أحرقت قنابل السفينة جميع ما عند محمد الكنعان من أثاث ومتاع وهدمت محله الذي هو من الاراضي العثمانية تجاه المحمرة .

ولم يكتف سعادته بهذا العمل فقط بل أرسل الى الباب العالي يطلب مخابرة حكومة فارس لاتخاذ التدابير لتلافي مثل هذه الحوادث .

ينتظر وصول دولة ناظم باشا والي بغداد وقائد اق العراق مركز وظيفته وقد ذهب والينا في هذا اليوم متوجها الى بغداد ليعرض على دولته ما يرى أن البصرة في حاجة اليه من الاصلاح وليتلقى منه الخطة المنوى اتباعها في بلاد العراق ، وقد أناب سعادة والينا عنه في الولاية حضرة سعاد بك متصرف لواء نجد .

تسعى حكومة البصرة في التأليف بين الامير مبارك بن الصباح والامير سعدون باشا . وسيتقابل سعاد بك مع مبارك الصباح في سفران وبعد ذلك يتوجه الى الرميلة لمقابلة سعدون وسيصحبه في هذه الجولة بعض أعيان البصرة حقق الله الآمال بالاتحاد والوفاق . عبد الوهاب

(115) 125 137

Extract:- from "Al-Moaqad", published in Cairo of 23rd May 1910.

احوال البصرة

اختلال الامن العام

تعذر الصلح بين مبارك بن صباح وسعدون باشا

أخبار خصوصية للمؤيد

البصرة في ٢٦ ربيع الاخر سنة ١٣٢٨

أخبرتكم سابقا بسعي الحكومة للصلح بين مبارك بن صباح وسعدون باشا وأفيدكم انها لم توفق لاجرائه لاسباب طفيفة فأصبح القتال بينهما على قاب قوسين أو أدنى

وشاع أمس في بعض المجالس الخصوصية أن الشيخ خزعل خان أمير العراق العجمي عقد اتفاقا مع الانكليز فان صح الخبر كان الامر ضربة قاضية على البصرة لان هذا الشيخ ذو نفوذ عظيم وهو يحمي كثيرين ممن يغيرون على البصرة ويخلون الامن العام فيها واصبح من المتعذر على والينا الهمام العمل فيها بسلام

صرح سعادة والي البصرة وهو ذاهب لمقابلة عطوفة ناظم باشا بأنه اذا لم يوافق عطوفته على ما يريد سعادة الوالي من وجوه اصلاح البصرة استقال من منصبه وسافر الى الاستانة من بغداد فعسى أن لا تحرم البصرة من رجل همام مثله

(عبد الوهاب)

Printed copy of the undermentioned communication is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent Koweit for information and record.

Letter No. 1719 of 26 June 1910 with enclosures
From The Resident to Foreign

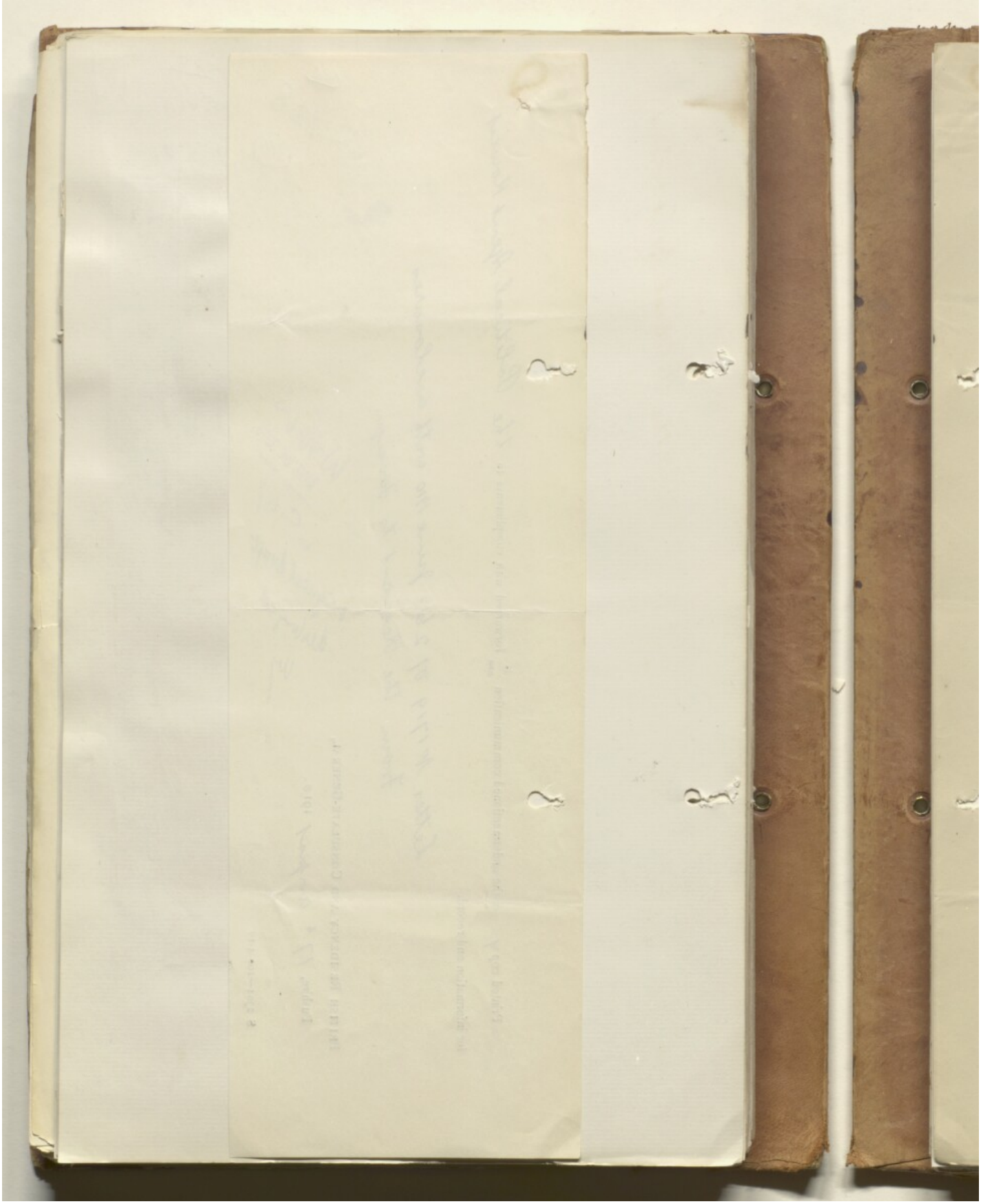
BRITISH RESIDENCY AND CONSULATE-GENERAL,
Bushire, 17 August 1910.

S 2304—100-4-10

126
138
116

W 70-25
AUG 20 1910
C.117

signed draft
delivered
by.



127. Kowcit 134 (117)

No. 1719 (Confidential), dated Bushire, the 26th June (received 4th July) 1910.

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. Z. COX, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—J. B. WOOD. Esq., I.C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

no copy

In continuation of the correspondence ending with my letter No. 1608, dated 16th June 1910, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India a copy of an interesting letter* from the Political Agent at Kuwait in which he discusses the interest evinced by the present Wali of Basrah in matters concerning Kuwait, and the policy to be expected of the new *régime* of which Nazif Bey's attitude is undoubtedly an index.

* No. C.-36, dated 15th June 1910.

Copy of a letter No C.-36, (Confidential,) dated Kuwait, the 15th June 1910, from Captain W. H. I. Shakespear, I.A., Poltical Agent, Kuwait, to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

I have the honour to invite a reference to certain items in my diary† for the current week relating to the reported interest of the present Wali of Basrah in matters concerning Kuwait. I have referred to the same subject in recent reports dealing with other matters but as further information seems to point to the fact that the question of the exact status of Kuwait as between Turkey and Great Britain before very long will inevitably be forced upon us for some definite solution, I am led to put before you such information as has so far come to my knowledge and brought me to this conclusion.

† Extract attached.

2. In October 1909 I heard from Muhammerah that Shaikh Mubarak's Secretary, Abdul Aziz bin Salim bin Badr, was reported to be trying to bring about a closer union between Kuwait and the Turkish Government. I did not credit the report at the time and have had no reason to do so later, for the man himself was imprisoned by the Turks for some considerable time in Basrah and has no particular cause to regard them with affection, though no doubt he might be willing to act as their tool for a substantial consideration. Shaikh Mubarak also trusts him more than any other person of his entourage which I think would be unlikely if he knew or had the slightest reason to suspect him of any intrigue. He is, however, always employed as the Shaikh's confidential agent in matters at Basrah.

3. In October 1909 the present Wali, Suliman Nathif Bey, arrived at Basrah and at once began to show his mettle by summary orders for the general improvement of local conditions in Basrah. He also began cultivating Shaikh Mubarak's friendship most assiduously. Meetings between the Wali and the Shaikh became far more frequent than has been the case with former incumbents; and, wherever possible, the Wali has done his best to attract Mubarak with assistance in matters which closely affect his pocket. The Shaikh in discussing the Wali to me said that though the Wali was always talking about impossible schemes he had undoubtedly done much for Mubarak himself, especially in regard to his properties at Fao where he had put an end to all difficulties in the repairing of his date-garden embankments, encroachments by the Turkish military authorities, etc., by going down himself and issuing the requisite orders in person. He had also obtained from Constantinople the rescission of the suspensory orders which had created so much of the difficulty about his Fadhagiya property.

4. Against these *benefits* we have the reported proposals of the Wali to connect Kuwait and Basrah by telegraph, to despatch Turkish officers in charge of Kuwaiti gendarmerie to Al Hasa, the Wali's insistence on the registration of the Shaikh's sons as Turkish subjects as a preliminary to the legal transfer of his Fadhagiya property, and the latest rumours of a Turkish detachment for Kuwait itself, the offer of official Turkish recognition of Mubarak as responsible for practically the whole of North-West Arabia, enquiries as to the flag

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the Shaikh flies, etc. Kuwait which formerly scarcely ever figured in Arabic newspapers now finds mention under the heading of Basrah News in the Cairo papers over the signature of the Basrah correspondent.

5. As bearing on this subject it may be of interest to note here that the items in my diary were obtained from a local source but curiously enough were confirmed almost exactly in conversation with M. Toukholka, Russian Consul at Basrah, during his few hours' visit to Kuwait. He said to me that he was much interested in Persian Gulf politics, and having but lately arrived in Basrah, where he constantly heard the position of Kuwait discussed, he was naturally desirous of seeing the place and its ruler, to use his own words "he had no instructions to pursue any active policy at Basrah for the place did not really affect Russia, and consequently he had very little to do officially. Thus he was afforded the opportunity of seeing our position in regard to Kuwait, the Baghdad Railway, Muhammerah and the Persian Gulf generally from the point of view of an interested on-looker." He said he had heard in Basrah that Mubarak used to fly a flag which was exactly similar to the Turkish with the exception that the Kuwait flag carried three white stars but that within the last two years Mubarak at the request of the Wali had reverted to one star! He informed me that his own introduction from the Wali to Mubarak bore the superscription of "Kaimmakam of Kuwait," and that the Wali had frequently mentioned the position of Kuwait in conversation; he had said that the policy of the new Turkey was to maintain the "status quo," which, so far as Kuwait was concerned, he was convinced the Turks regarded as implying distinct subjection to them, and that to prevent the possibility of Kuwait vanishing beyond their hold, as they considered had already happened in the cases of Maskat and Bahrain owing to their own negligence, they would probably make some serious effort to establish in Kuwait an indubitable visible sign of their predominance. He thought we should have a very difficult question to solve more specially as the new Turkish Government was a vastly different affair to the one to which the Powers had become accustomed under the *régime* of Abdul Hamid. His own experience in Macedonia and Albania less than six months ago before his appointment to Basrah had shown him the difference very plainly.

He said that the Wali at Basrah was undoubtedly working for his own country's good and that he was supported whole-heartedly by Nazim Pasha. The latter though styled Wali of Baghdad had been sent out by the Turkish Government with a promise of generous support and had been given a free hand first to re-organize thoroughly the VIth Army Corps, and, when that object had been achieved and an effective weapon been thereby supplied, to consolidate Turkish power in the southern vilayets and amongst the Arabs.

M. Toukholka did not appear to me to be trying to obtain information seriously, for though he asked some inconvenient questions as to how we regarded Mubarak officially, he hardly waited for a reply and seem more intent on displaying his own knowledge of and interest in the situation than in deliberately "pumping" me. He gave me the impression of an energetic man really anxious to see things by travelling about himself and inclined to be garrulous as to his own experiences.

I have reported M. Toukholka's conversation in some detail above in order to show that in Basrah at least the status of Kuwait is discussed fairly freely among officials.

6. Shaikh Mubarak himself talks to me quite openly of the Wali and his various schemes and makes no secret of his own opinion that the Wali is endeavouring to bring about some way of introducing Turkish influence into Kuwait. He expresses himself as being averse to any such influence but at the same time compelled to meet the Wali amicably and to do nothing likely to arouse his animosity for fear of reprisals on his properties on the Shatt-el-Arab.

That the Shaikh desires absolute independence is certain, but he has sufficient acumen to see that his property on the river furnishes Turkey with a valuable hostage from himself, that we for our own reasons do not desire the growth

128. (118) 141

of Turkish influence at the head of the Persian Gulf, and that Kuwait is therefore in the happy position of being sought by two Great Powers, thus affording him a lever by which he can increase his own importance while balancing the two Powers against each other in all matters concerning himself.

Extract from the Kuwait Political Diary No. 24, for the week ending 15th June 1910.

14th June.

It is reported that the Wali of Basrah proposed to send a detachment of Turkish soldiers with 3 officers to be permanently stationed at Kuwait and that Shaikh Mubarak has agreed saying there would be no objection. It is said that the Wali has been making enquiries as to what flag the Shaikh flies, and that he has promised Shaikh Mubarak a Firman giving him the control of Najd, Hasa, Katar, Katif, etc.

G. C. B. P., Simla.—No. 2221 F. D.—12-7-10.—44. H.C.S.L.

(119) 131. 144

129. 142

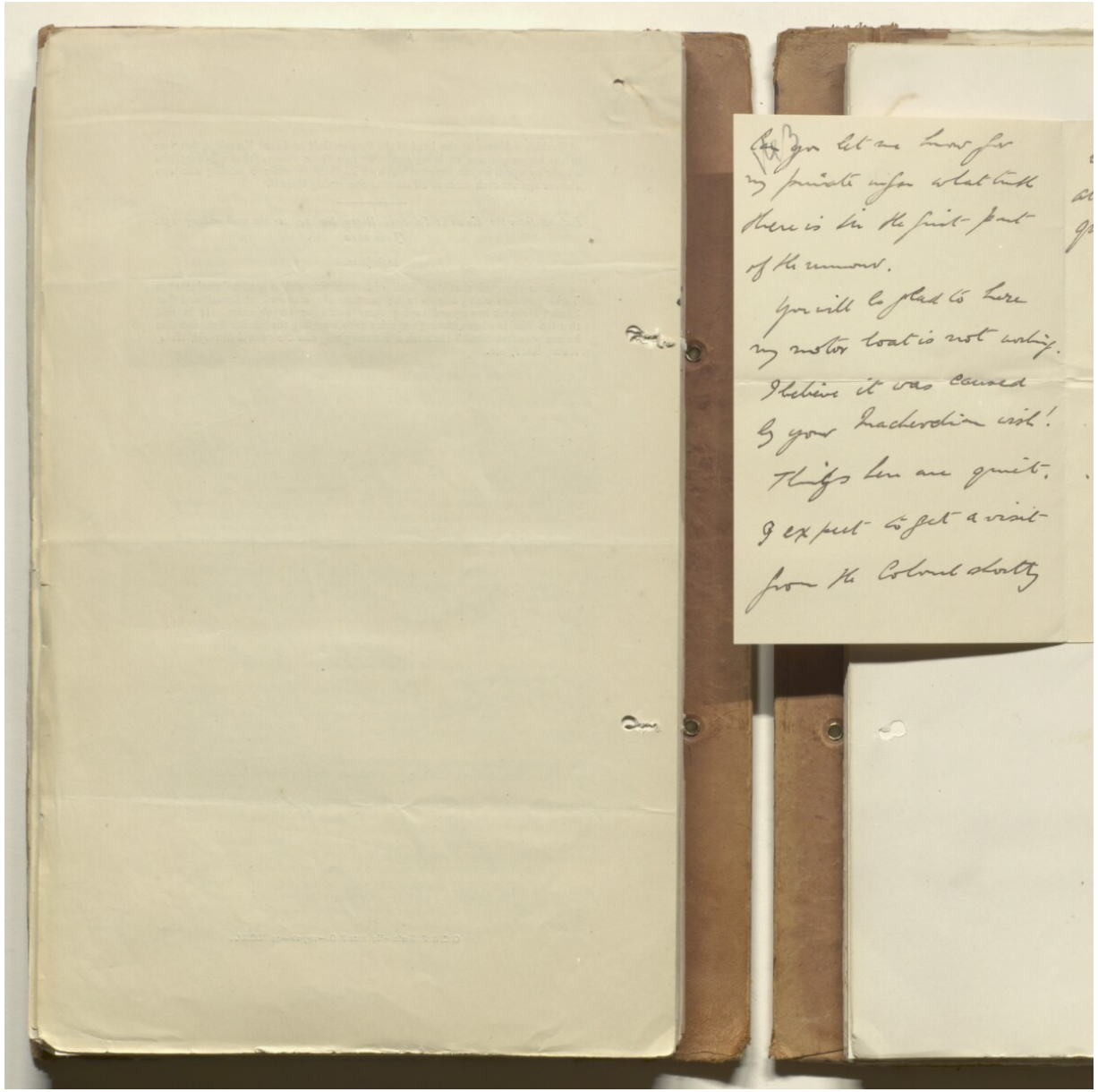
(119A)

Bahrein
12.6.10.

My dear Shakespear,

It is strongly rumoured here that Sh Mubarak is going to finally decide to put in his lot with the Turks, even if he hasn't already done so.

They say a fort is going to be built there with 25 Turks & 25 men of Mubarak's, outside the Agency House!



Pray let me know for my private infor what truth there is in the first part of the rumour.

You will be glad to hear my motor boat is not working. I believe it was caused by your Inaberchian visit!

Things here are quiet. I expect to get a visit from the Colonel shortly

(119) 131. 144

130. 144

Pray let me know for my private information what truth there is in the first part of the rumour.

You will be glad to hear my motor boat is not working. I believe it was caused by your Macherchin visit!

Things here are quiet. I expect to get a visit from the Colonel shortly but he has been kept at Bushire on account of quarantine.

So long.

Yours sincerely

P. Prideaux.

132.
(120) 145

CONFIDENTIAL

21st June 1910.

My dear Mackenzie

page 142

Many thanks for yours of the 12th June with the startling news of the immediate occupation of Koweit by the Turks!! Of course that part is not true. Mubarak is playing with them like he always does but only I think because he has to keep in with them to prevent trouble occuring on his date-gardens on the river which of course the Turks hold in the hollow of their hand. The present Wali too is most assiduous in his attentions to Mubarak and Mubarak can't really afford to offend him, though I think he would give anything for us to pull him out of the awkward position he occupies between ourselves and the Turks. Please send me any more gup of this kind which you can get hold of, it all helps me here as news is very hard to come by in this place and these rumours give me a chance of pumping people discreetly and so hearing more than I can possibly by my own efforts here.

Sorry to hear the motor has broken down but without a vetting can't guess what it is unless something in the ignition. I am off to Basra this week in my launch for a couple of days to see Drew and incidentally have a look at [illegible] in spite of the collect-

Yours
[illegible]

135.
(121)
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(121A) 133. 146

Confidential.

H.B.M's Consulate General,
Baghdad.

12th June 1910.

Note E
JUN 23 1910
C.75

My dear Shakespear,

Many thanks for your letters of 12th and 13th April and 3rd May for the very interesting collection of diaries that accompanied them. I have not much to send you this week, as you see. It has not been the custom here to keep a regular watch on events in Central Arabia, and there are too many things on in 'Iraq itself just now to leave one time for establishing a connection on that side. By and bye I hope to take Najd intelligence in hand.

I will do what I can to find out anything you want here, though Crow at Basrah is usually in a better position to find out about matters affecting Kuwait. Of course

Note/ Substance of this communicated to Resdt. Bushire in a Sp., no copy kept. 29/6.

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Our new Wali, Nazim Pasha, has been invested with political superintendence over Basrah, which is an innovation; and it may happen some time that I get khabar here of his intentions before they are communicated to Basrah. But he is surrounded by a very modern (& I should think efficient) staff; and probably there will not be so much leakage of information here as formerly. I hear in a general way that he means to push the Turkish claims to Kuwait for all they are worth; and, if he does, it will be quite in keeping with his general attitude, which seems to be that it is only Turkey that counts in this part of the world! This is a pretty big order with only 10,000 active troops, 20,000 inefficient reserves, & a huge lawless & roadless province of Kurds & Arabs to keep in check. He is a fine old man all the same, and, I am assured, an Anglophile at heart, though the exigencies of the service may make him appear otherwise. The Basrah Commodore, & Hikmat Bey,

135.
(121)
148

azim Pasha, has been
tical superintendence
is an innovation; and
time that I get khabar
before they are communicated
surrounded by a very
think efficient) staff; and
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formerly. I hear in a
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quite in keeping with
hich seems to be that
ounts in this part of
retty big order with
ps, 20,000 inefficient
less & roadless province
p in ~~[illegible]~~ check. He is a fine
and, I am assured,
, though the exigencies
he him appear other-
odore, & Hikmat Bey,

who is here just now, is a very nice 134
gentlemanly fellow and has associated a lot
with English people. He is dining with us to-
night. If anything short of a bombardment
were to take him to Kuwait, I am sure you
would enjoy his visit!

Leachman, not satisfied with 3 months
in Najd, is now off to Kurdistan & Armenia. He
left a fortnight ago.

Yours sincerely,
J. G. Lorimer.

My wife joins in very kind regards.

Note/ Substance of this communicated to Resdt. Bushire in
a Sp, no copy kept. 29/6.

136.
(122) 149

H.B.M. CONSULATE,
BASRA.

JUN 23 1910
C-73

June 17 1910

My dear Shakespear, Your letter of May 31. Sorry you have not been able to get away yet. Your Sheikh does indeed seem very friendly with my Vali. He was up here again on June 14 and dined with Haji Reiss, the Vali and Kartass at the latter's house and afterwards had the Vali to lunch on board his yacht on the following day. I have not been able to learn what transpired. Kartass called on me afterwards and said he did not know himself as they discussed no business at his house and kept that for their tête a tête on board the Sheikh's yacht. Wilson sent me a copy of his tel. to Cox No. 552 June 3 and said the Sheikh had announced his intention of abandoning all further advances to Vali or Turks. It does not quite look like it judging by the friendly intercourse of June 14. I sent Cox what I could get here about the Fedaghia land regn and no doubt it went on to you. I have no other information.

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H.B.M. CONSULATE
BASRA

My Ambassador's view is that we should let the Sheikh manage his own affairs in these land questions. He can probably ~~manage~~ deal with them much better than we can.

Yours sincerely

Demi Official
Confidential

(123)

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W 2025 151
JUN 23 1910
C.74

Shommerah
10th June 1910.

My dear Shakespear,

Mubarak came up the river a few days a o. On arrival at Fao he wired to the Wali that he was coming up to say goodbye to him, as he had heard that the Wali was on the point of leaving for the Muntafik country. He asked the Wali to meet him at the Anchor. The Wali however paid him the marked attention of going down in ~~a~~ some kind of boat to Sarraji, there to await him. But Shaikh Mubarak turned up late & disappointed him. he arrive d late in the evening, & stayed all the next day with the Wali. This is so directly contrary to his previously expressed intention of having no more to do with the Wali, that it ca caused some surprise tothe Shaikh. It has not yet transpired what business if any he had or did with the Wali. I hope to be a le to let you know that later. Haji Rais, who was t Sarraji at the time, tells me that the Wali was very ~~[illegible]~~ complacent about Mubarak, & did not seem to have experienced a rebuff the week before.

Fairlyah

The Wali ~~He~~ spent 2 days or more at

Yours sincerely

A.T.Wilson.

Copy to Bushire

138 (129)

No. 1652 of 1910.

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Confidential.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 21st June 1910.

A copy of the undermentioned communication is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information.

By Order,

J.S. Crosthwaite Captain,

Second Assistant Resident.

JUN 23 1910

C.76.

Letter No. 1650 dated 19th June 1910 from Resident to Foreign.

Confidential.

139 153 (125)

No. 1650 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 19th June 1910.

From

Lieutenant-Colonel P.Z.Cox, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To

The Hon'ble Mr. S.H.Butler, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Secretary to the Government of India
In the Foreign Department,
S I M L A.

page 13a

Sir,

In continuation of my telegram No. 610 dated 7th June 1910 I have the honour to forward a translation of the Sheikh of Koweit's letter therein referred to, together with the other documents cited on the same subject, viz, the registration of the Sheikh's property at Fadaghia.

1. Sheikh of Koweit to Resident, dated 5the June 1910. → page 116
2. Resident to Sheikh No.203 dated 7th June 1910. → page 133
3. P.A.Koweit to Resident No.C.35 dated 8th June 1910. → page 12
4. Consul Busreh to Resident No.20 dated 6th June 1910. → page 5 below

2. It will be seen that while according to Mr. Crow the Wali has expressed his willingness to forward a representation from Sheikh Mubarek for the registry of the property in the names of one or more of his women folk, Sheikh Mubarek himself asserts that the Wali has definitely refused to register the property unless he lets his four sons take out Turkish certificates, as a preliminary step.

The Sheikh evidently fears now that the Porte will put the sellers up to repudiate the sale, and that he will be done out

No. 1880 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 19th June 1910.

From

Lieutenant-Colonel P.Z.Cox, C.S.I., C.I.E.,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To

The Hon'ble Mr. S.H.Butler, C.S.I., C.I.E.,

Secretary to the Government of India

In the Foreign Department,

S I M L A.

Sir,

In continuation of my telegram No. 610 dated 7th June 1910 I have the honour to forward a translation of the Shaikh of

1. Shaikh of Kuwait to Resident, dated 5th June 1910.	Kuwait's letter therein
2. Resident to Shaikh No.203 dated 7th June 1910.	referred to, together with
3. F.A.Kuwait to Resident No.C.35 dated 8th June 1910.	the other documents cited
4. Consul Bunsen to Resident No.20 dated 6th June 1910.	on the same subject, viz.

the registration of the Shaikh's property at Fadaghia.

2. It will be seen that while according to Mr. Crowe the Wali has expressed his willingness to forward a representation from Shaikh Mubarak for the registry of the property in the names of one or more of his women folk, Shaikh Mubarak himself asserts that the Wali has definitely refused to register the property unless he lets his four sons take out Turkish certificates, as a preliminary step.

The Shaikh evidently fears now that the Porte will put the screws up to repudiate the sale, and that he will be done out

140.
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(126)

out of his property and of the purchase money.

3. I am sending a copy of Sheikh Mubarek's and Captain Shakespear's letters to His Majesty's Consul Busreh by first opportunity, but it is advisable that I should not delay submission of them to Government in the meanwhile.

It will be realised that unless the matter can be got round by the registration of Sheikh Mubarek's daughter or blind son, we shall be placed in a very difficult position; we must either come to direct issue with the Porte over the question; or, if we wish to take the other alternative and advise Sheikh Mubarek to resell the property or try and get his money back from the vendors, we must face the contingency of making good his loss to him - an inconvenient prospect, but preferable, I venture to believe, to the complications which the registry of his sons as Turkish subjects would create in the future.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Lt.Colonel,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

141.

(127)

Relevant papers taken from File II/3 Volume I

These papers were restored to their correct position in file II/3 Vol. 1 i.e.

papers 155 - 156
" 242 - 243
" 290 - 300

Ida Gentley
25.5.66

(128) 142.

No. 1668 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 22nd June 1910.

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A copy of the undermentioned communication is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, ~~for information~~ with reference to the last paragraph.

By Order,

S. Crosthwaite Captain,

Second Assistant Resident.

Consul Busreh to Resident Bushire. Letter No. 20 dated 6th June 1910.

(129) 143. 156

Copy of a letter No. 20 dated June 6th 1910 from His Majesty's Consul, Busreh, to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

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no copy

In reply to your letter No. 1280 of May 22nd last on the subject of the registration of Sheikh Mubarek's property at Fadaghiya, I have the honour to state that, according to information I have received here, orders were sent by the Sublime Porte to the effect that Sheikh Mubarek may transfer his property in the names of his four sons, as he asked in Moharrem Bey's time, provided he registers them as Ottoman subjects.

I underatand Sheikh Mubarek has on many occasions applied to have the land transferred in the names of his sons but that he does not agree to take out Teskeras or Ottoman nationality for them and on his recent visit to Basra on May 31st last, he proposed to the Vali to transfer the land to one or several of his womenfolk. The Vali however, I am told, said he could not do this as it was not in accordance with the instructions he had received, and he suggested that, if Mubarek wanted it done, he should make a fresh application to that effect, which the Wali professed himself willing to forward to Constantinople.

"Al-Moayed" d/ 1st June 1910. 144/157 (130)

مصالح الانجليز

في بلاد العرب

اتينا أول أمس على تعريب ما قاله التيمس عن مصلحة انجلترا في مصر وننقل اليوم ما قاله مراسلها بشأن البلاد العربية قال :

« ان اهتمام انجلترا بما يحدث في البلاد العربية لهو أعظم أهمية مما يتصوره الناس فقد استولينا على عدن ولنا حق الحماية على كثير من الزعماء والقبائل في الداخلية فضلا عن سلطتنا على أمير عظيم الشأن وهو سلطان لحج ولنا فضلا عن ذلك نفوذ الحماية على ساحل البلاد العربية الجنوبي الى عمان ومصالحنا أعظم من مصالح سوانا وهي مؤيدة بالمعاهدات. ثم ان زعماء العربان في ساحل القرصان على الخليج العجمي هم تحت حمايتنا وتوجد علاقات خصوصية بيننا وبين شيخ الكويت وهو عامل عظيم في سياسة الاعراب وبذلك نجد أن نصف السواحل العربية كأن فعلا ومباشرة تحت نفوذ انكلترا ولذلك قد تكون الاحوال هناك أحيانا ذات أهمية خاصة لانكلترا

أما عدن بالذات فانها الان في شغل داخلي شاغل فقد أدخل فيها مشروع جديد للضرائب والغاية منه سد نفقات تحسين المياه ومنع ذوي السوابق من الدخول اليها هذا المشروع قد أحدث شيئا من الانقسام والخلاف وهناك مشروع آخر تحت النظر لانشاء ترام بخاري من تواهي الى الشيخ عثمان . أما تجارة عدن فلا تتقدم والمناظرة شديدة بين جيبوتي والحديدة ولا يتيسر لعدن الحصول على نصيبها من تجارة الداخلية الا اذا وجدت المواصلات بينها وبين داخلية اليمن والاحوال هناك ليست على ما يرام فالقبائل في نزاع دائم احداها مع الاخرى وجميعها مع الاتراك والقبائل الموجودة تحت حمايتنا تحارب القبائل الكائنة في آسيا تحت حماية الدولة العثمانية . والجيش العثماني يحارب اتباع امام صنعاء وحقيقة الامر ان الاتراك لم يستولوا فعلا على اليمن ولم يحسنوا الولاية على القسم الذي يملكونه

لان الاهالي للان لم يفهموا ان وضع الاحطاب على أسطحة المنازل فيه ضرر كبير لاسيما في زمن الصيف فقد ثبت بلا جدال أن وضع الاحطاب على الاسطحة يعرض المنازل لاخطار الحريق فلماذا لا يهتمون باتخاذ طريقة تدرأ عنهم الخطر الذي يهددهم من ساعة الى أخرى

ويجب على الحكومة أن تلغي الاوامر الشديدة وعلى عمد البلاد أن يجعلوا محلات بعيدة من المساكن لوضع الاحطاب بها وما ذلك عليها بعزيز ومن يخالف هذه الاوامر يعاقب على ذلك حتى تخف عن الفلاح هذه الويلات وكفاه ما يعانيه من الشدائد من قلة المحصول وفتك الطاعون بماشيته الامر الذي طال زمنه وكثره ضرره

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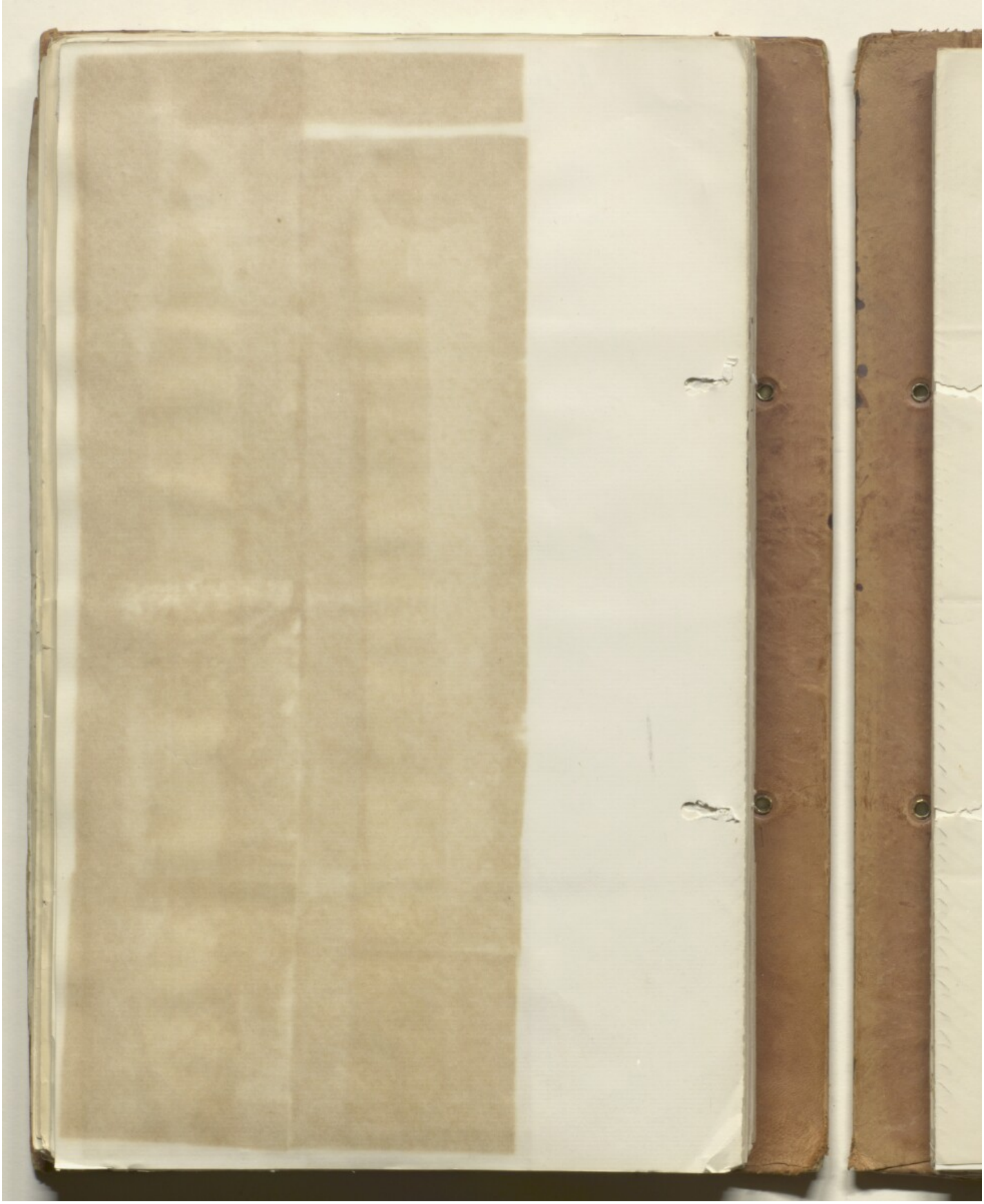
تسابقت الجياد بعد ظهر يوم السبت الماضي (أول أمس) في مضمار الابراهمية فكان السابق في الشوط الاول الجواد زيف دور للكونت دي فنتارس وفي الشوط الثاني الجواد دوجان لسعادة خليل باشا خياط وفي الثالث الجواد نشيط الاول لسعادة اسحاق بك حسين وفي الرابع الجواد رستا للفيكونت دي فنارس وفي الخامس كان السابق الجواد لوتيري لاحمد بك فتحي وفي السادس الجواد ريدان



(151)

منعت محافظة الترجمية المستخدمين الختاط عن القيام بالمظاهرة التي كان موعد القيام بها صباح الامس للمطالبة من أصحاب المحلات بتعميم الراحة في أيام الاحاد

كان لانعام الحضرة الفخيمة الخديوية بالرتبة الثانية علي حضرة الدكتور الفاضل محمد بك رأفت مفتش صحة قسم مينا البصل رنة فرح وسرور لدي جميع سكان الاسكندرية لما يعهدونه في حضرة المنعم عليه من كريم السجايا ودماثة الاخلاق وحسن المعاملة ونحن نشاركهم في ذلك ونطلب له من الله حسن الترقي في ظل الحضرة الفخيمة الخديوية

رواية العاشق البائس

تطلب هذه الرواية من ادارة جريدة المؤيد بثمن النسخة خمسة قروش صاغ وقرش واحد اجرة البريد

خطر المستقبل فتحتاط لنفسها من بوائقه

ان الدولة العلية قد أصبحت في ظروف تشغلها عن مراقبة الحوادث التي تجري الان في اطراف بلاد العرب بدافع الدسائس الاجنبية وان مشاغلها الكثيرة في تركية أوروبا ومن أجل مطامع اليونان وغرور الكريديين قد تلهيها بعض الشيء عن الاحاطة بكل ما يجري في الاطراف الشاسعة خصوصاً وان ماليتها لا تساعدها على حشد الجنود لحسم الفتن الكثيرة التي تجري في الجنوب الشرقي من اجزاء المملكة العثمانية فعلى أمراء العرب شرقا وغربا وجنوبا وشمالا أن يتيقظوا كل في جهته الى ما قد يحدث حوله من الدسائس والفتن وعلى عقلاء الامة العربية في كل الولايات أن لا يتناموا للحوادث نوم الغنم بين أيدي الذئاب الخاطفة فان المسئلة العربية التي تجاهد الدولة العلية أن تقفل بابها من جهة تكاد تفتح بالدسائس الاجنبية من قبل باب آخر لا يعلم الا الله ما وراءه

البصرة

في ٥ جماد الاول ، سنة ١٣٢٨

لمراسلنا الفاضل

ذكرت في رسالة مضت أن الاشقياء واللصوص اعتادوا أن يلجؤا بعد ارتكاب جرائمهم الى المحمرة وجوارها، وأن الحكومة تقاسي الصعوبات في تطبيق أحكام القانون على أمثال هؤلاء ، لان المحمرة تابعة لحماية دولة ايران وعليها أمير له الاستقلال الاداري في داخلية تلك المقاطعة وهو الشيخ خزعل خان !

وأزيد قراء المؤيد الاغر علما أن الامير خزعل أرسل الى البصرة في هذه الايام وزيره أغا رئيس ليتداول مع حكومتها في هذا الشأن وزيل سوء التفاهم الحاصل بين البلادين ، وعسانا نرى الحكومتين قد اتفقتا يدا واحدة على قطع دابر اللصوص والقتلة ، فتأمن التجارة ويبيت الناس في أمن وراحة

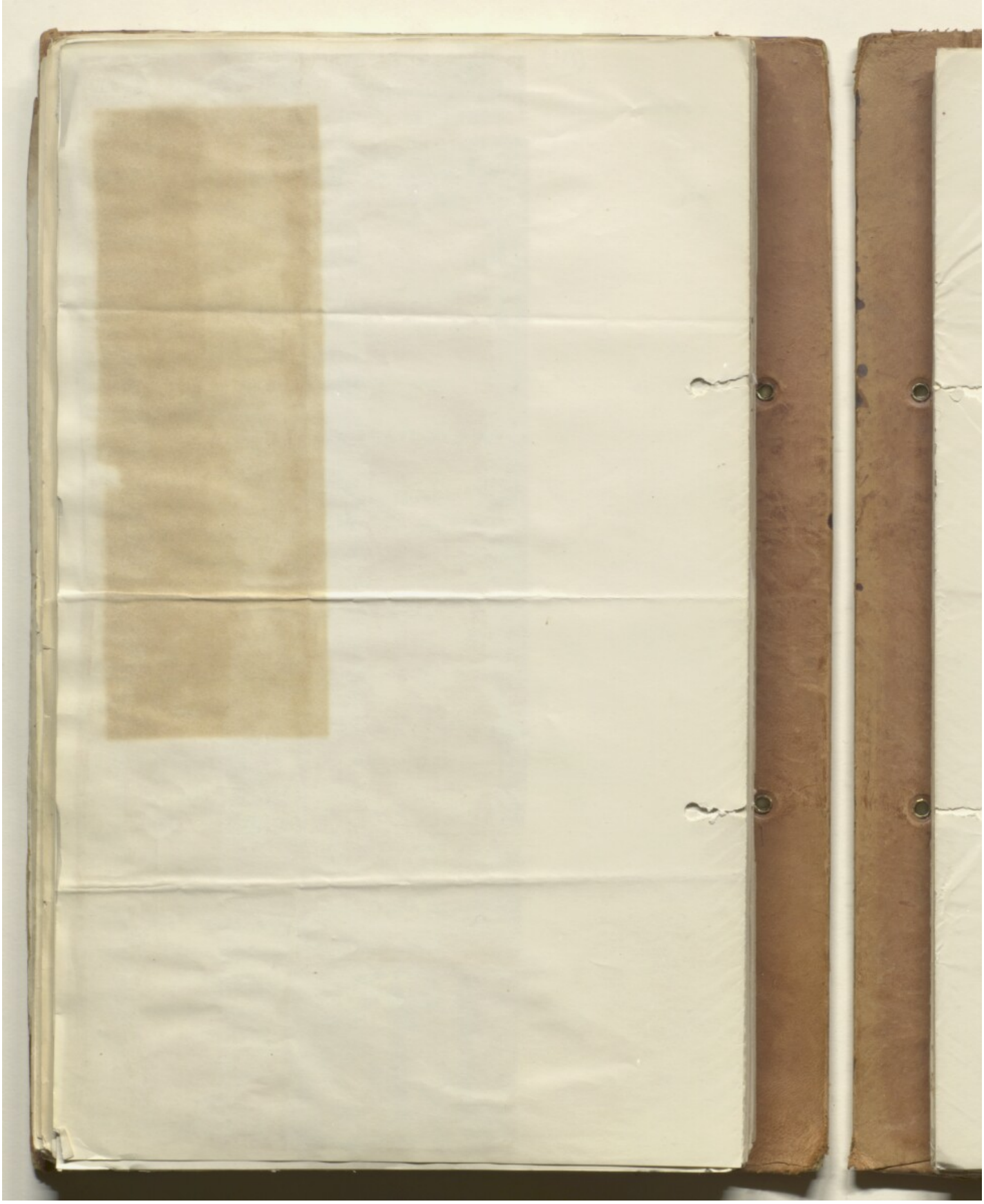
***

انتقل الى رحمة ربه في مدينة سورات من بلاد الهند المرحوم المبرور ملجأ الخير وعضد الوطنية الشيخ عبد العزيز الابراهيم وهو أغنى اغنياء هذه الامة العربية . وقد سبق لنا أن كتبنا مفصل تاريخ حياة الرجل في المؤيد الاغر قبل ثلاث سنوات !

فنعزي حضرة نجله النجيب الشيخ عبد الرحمن وسائر آله وأسرته أجمل العزاء ألهمهم الله الصبر وافاض على الفقيد من رحمته !

***

ان من الغلطات ما لو تعدد لاصبح من الصعب تعليله وحمله على الصدف خصوصا



146. 159 (132)

اذا كان ذلك فيا يجرح العواطف ويكون
مدعاة الضرر والشقاق .

من ذلك أن اللجنة التي تألفت في
الاستانة لجمع الاعانات باسم الاسطول
العثماني ارسلت الى ولاية البصرة والى سائر
البلاد العربية اعلانات باللغة التركية
والارمنية والرومية والكردية وغيرها الا
لغة القرآن التي لا يفهم أهل البلاد —
المراد حضهم على البذل — غيرها .

ولما وصلت هذه الاعلانات تركت
في نفوس العرب أثر ايصعب محوه فبادر
سعادة الوطني الغيور يوسف باشا المندیل
يحتج على هذا العمل . ولذلك اضطرت
اللجنة الى الاعتذار بواسطة رئيسها الثاني
وأرسلت أعلانا بالعربية والتركية فقط .

* * *

استدعى ناظم باشا والي بغداد قائد
البحرية المقيم في البصرة وقد سافر اليوم
الى هناك .

عبد الوهاب

Koweit

147. 160

(133)

No. 1880 (Confidential), dated Bushire, the 10th (received the 18th) July 1910.

From—Lieutenant-Colonel P. Z. Cox, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—J. B. Wood, Esq., I.C.S., Officiating Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

below page 161

NOV 25 1910

no copy

I have the honour to forward a further report from the Political Agent at Koweit on the subject of the registration question difficulty, connected with the transfer of Sheikh Mubarak's Fadaghia property, in continuation of the correspondence ending with Foreign Department Endorsement No. 1290-E.A., dated 21st June 1910.

Koweit Agency letter No. C.-40, dated the 30th June 1910.

2. Captain Shakespear's present communication seems to me to confuse two hypotheses, or aspects of the question, which need to be distinguished, and to introduce a third which is new to me.

(i) The first of these is that the Vali of Basrah is technically and legally correct in his attitude towards the transfer question (as Captain Shakespear suggests in paragraph 6 of his letter No. 35 of 8th June) and is merely interpreting against the public, including Sheikh Mubarak, the provisions of a law of general application in the Basrah Vilayat,—a dead-letter under the old regime but strictly enforced under the new,—which permits of no transfer of landed property in the said Vilayat except on the condition that the acquirer declares himself to be of Turkish nationality.

(ii) The second hypothesis is that the Vali's attitude is not based on any such law of general application in the Vilayat, but is merely an arbitrary departure from ordinary usage devised in the hope that by throwing Sheikh Mubarak into a state of apprehension lest his bargain should otherwise be upset and himself possibly put to great loss, they will drive him to declare himself or his sons to be of Turkish nationality.

(iii) The third and to me new aspect of the question is indicated in paragraph 2 of Captain Shakespear's present report, namely, that the Basrah authorities do not primarily and positively contend that Sheikh Mubarak must necessarily declare Turkish nationality; he might declare French, English or any other nationality if he enjoyed it, but that "Kweiti" is no nationality and that for Sheikh Mubarak Turkish nationality alone is indicated.

3. If the position with which we now have to deal were that indicated in (iii), then it would seem that it might be possible for us to induce the Porte in a friendly way to accept the definition "Koweiti" as a nationality for purposes of registration in the case of land-transfers, in order to avoid the raising of awkward issues. A recent report, however, from Mohammerah seems to indicate that hypothesis (iii) must be eliminated. Lieutenant Wilson writes that the Sheikh of Mohammerah informs him that the lands in Turkish limits which he purchased last year, known as Umm-el-Tuwailah (an island above Failiyeh) have not yet been registered, the present Vali having refused to permit it, and that the Sheikh has decided to wait on events and let the registration remain in abeyance until he sees what action we are going to take to see Sheikh Mubarak through his present difficulty.

It would appear, therefore, that it is either contingency (i) or (ii) with which we have to reckon. In the former case, if we make enquiries from the Porte they will probably reply that their Vali's action is not directed against Sheikh Mubarak but is merely the interpretation of existing land-laws applicable to the Basrah Vilayat; that Sheikh Mubarak is under no obligation to buy property in the Basrah Vilayat, but that, if he does, he must fulfil the same preliminaries and conditions as other persons; and that unless he complies the transfer cannot be recognised by the Turkish Courts and so the property must be considered as still belonging to the persons in whose name it has hitherto stood. We should then be confronted with the issue indicated in the concluding paragraph of my letter of 19th June.

4. If on the other hand the position indicated in (ii) is the one with which we have to deal, the issue is simpler and we seem to have good reasons for objecting on the ground that the invidious treatment of Sheikh Mubarak and the

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departure from past usage involved, constitutes an infringement of the *status quo* in regard to Koweit affairs which the Porte has undertaken to observe. The Mohammerah report above mentioned, however, seems to point to hypothesis (i) as the correct one.

5. It goes without saying that I entirely endorse the Political Agent's view that if the main question of the status of Koweit is involved we have everything to lose by delaying to face the issue, and that the longer we do so, the more difficult will it become to get it settled in the way we desire.

No. C.-40 (Confidential), dated Koweit, the 30th June 1910.

From—CAPTAIN W. H. I. SHAKESPEAR, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit,

To—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. Z. COX, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

page 128

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of the correspondence covered by your Second Assistant's endorsements Nos. 1652 and 1668, dated 21st and 22nd June 1910 respectively.

page 152 page 153

2. I would first correct a possible misunderstanding to which the latter part of paragraph 6 of my letter No. C.-35, dated the 8th June 1910, may give rise. When I said "Turkish nationality" I meant the sentence to apply only to Mubarak and Koweitis for of course other nationalities such as English, French, etc., are accepted, but in the case of Koweitis, the Turkish officials will not accept "Koweit" but insist on "Turkish" nationality.

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3. With reference to your letter No. 1650, dated 19th June 1910, to the Government of India and especially to paragraph 3 thereof, I would venture to submit the following observations resulting from a thorough discussion of the whole subject with His Majesty's Consul at Basrah. In your letter you fear see the possible alternative of advising Sheikh Mubarak to re-sell the property and of having to indemnify him for any loss thereon. With all deference I would venture to deprecate any such course and for the following reasons:—

(*a*) The Sheikh is certainly alarmed about this property, but at the same time I am inclined to think now he is not improbably exaggerating that alarm for our special benefit as a means of forcing our hand to free him from Turkish attentions.

(*b*) Mr. Consul Crow considers that the possiblity of the sale being repudiated is an extremely remote one seeing that the sale deeds bear the signatures of most of the notables of Basrah as well as the cachet of the British Consulate.

(*c*) The property is so large that a buyer would be difficult to find who would purchase it as a single lot and there is besides the grave objection in the advice of a re-sale of an appearance of weakness on our part in sustaining the Sheikh's claim.

4. In my humble opinion it would be far more advantageous to maintain the position of our special interests in Koweit, the Sheikh's long-continued independent status, whilst pressing upon the Porte that the recognition of Koweit as a nationality should suffice for the "Tapu" Office. The Porte is, I admit, not likely to agree, but as there seems no immediate risk of the Sheikh losing his property, it would seem worth while to state the above as defining to some extent what is the actual *status quo* in Koweit.

5. The question of the status of Koweit must come up before many years, and it seems fairly obvious that the Turkish officials have realised the powerful lever they possess for raising that issue in the registration question, which goes directly to the root of the matter on the point of nationality. The registration of any of Mubarak's family, whether the women or sons, would seem undesirable as likely to admit the principle that Koweit nationality is unrecognisable as against Turkish. For the same reason the taking out of Turkish "Teskerehs" by Koweit subjects is to be deprecated, and though the Sheikh denies it I hear from other sources that many Koweitis with business or land in Basrah have already done this. Under the new order of things this practice is likely to grow and in a few years hence it seems to me there will be far greater difficulty in insisting on the independence of Koweit than is the case at present, and it is for that reason that I would urge that the question should not be avoided.

148.

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(134)

DEMI OFFICIAL

Mahommerah

June 22nd 1910.

My dear Shakespear,

I saw the Shaikh of Mahommerah on the 22nd, & he told me(spontaneously) that Shaikh Mubarak had been staying with him for several days subsequent tohis visit to the Wali. Khaz'al was a good deal surprised, he said at this sudden rapprochement, & asked Mubarak what it meant. The latter replied that the Wali had asked him to come up & see him before he left Basrah to fight the Muntafik and so he had come. The Wali was pleasant to him, & said that in regard to his Paddaghiyah affairs he must not be down hearted: he(the Wali) had written to Constantinople on the subject, & had hopes that he would be able to arrange the matter to Mubarak's reasonable satisfaction- a somewhat cryptic utterance, if correctly repeated.

Nothing else was said or done, acc. to Mubarak.

I am sending a copy of this to Bushire.

yours sincerely

A.T. Wilson

JUN 30 1910

C-83

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(135)

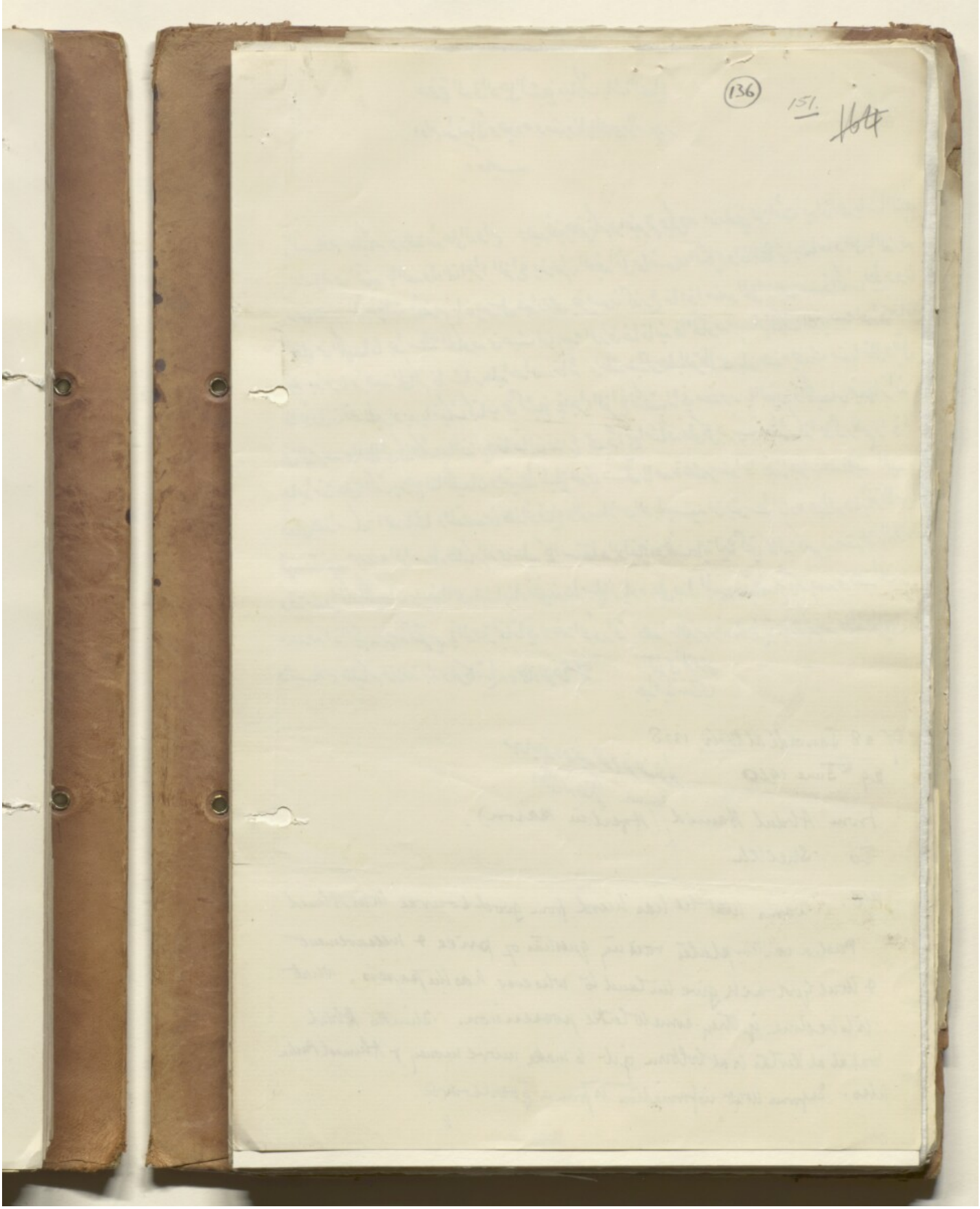
149.

مستعجل

في البحره شيخ الكويت حضرة مبارك باشا الصباح
الفخامة التي بعثرها عليك من سايت العدل والشروطيه
اليوم تقرر في مجلس الوكلاء لاجل يعطونك سند الخاقاني
وامر الاجراء في الامر يعطون ابشركم واعرض خلوص مع
سلامي المخصوص لاولادكم وعموم عشيرتكم المحترمه في ٢٢ نيسان
مطابق في ٢٥ ربيع الثاني ١٣٢٨ و٥ مايو ١٩١٠ احمد الزهير

Copy of Telegram.
from Ahmed az Zuhair
to Mubarak informing
him of the issue of orders to
register his land.

22 Nisan 1326
25 Rabi II 1328
5 May 1910



حضرة المولى الاجل الشيخ مبارك باشا الصباح
ادام الله تعالى وجوده ومقرونا بالصحة والسرور
امين

السلام عليكم ورحمة الله على الدوام وبعد نخبر حضرتكم بواخبر تم بمكروه انه بلغني ممن اثق به ان احمد باشا الزهير
حصل له من اقتفه بالعدول عن اجراء الغراغ يزعم ان الفقيه اقل مما تسوى الكاع وان الطاشي ايضا ما دخل بالذرعه
ومن هذه المزخرفات فعزم بان يرسل خواريص يخرصون كذرع فاذا منعو الخواريص فعند ذالك يطردون
كفلح من الكيعان بواسطة الحكومه من حيث ان بيده اوراق خاقانيه فالحكومه تسلم الملك الذي بيده اوراق خاقانيه
بدون مراجعة الحاكم فاشار عليه احد احد قائه واظنه عبد الوهاب القرطاسي بان هذه يحدث منها قال وقيل
فالاولى ان تصطير لابد يا تيك كتاب من الشيخ في اجراء الغراغ فتكتب له اني معذور بالفقيه والكيعان فيها زائد
عن الذرعه والطاشي كذالك ما انذرع فاما ان نذرع مجددا مع اضافه على كل جريب مقدار كذا من الدراهم واذا
ما يوافق على ذالك يرجع لنا الكيعان ويقسط المبلغ الذي مسلمه لا مدة عشر سنوات هذا جواب صديقه اليه
فعلى هذا سكة احمد باشا والمقصد من هذه الاقناع والوساوس الابليسيه ان يتوسط الماده عبد الوهاب القرطاسي
فيستفيد بهذه الواسطه طلبكم الذي عليه كالاستفاد الولغني وخسمايه ليره كتي كانة لكم بذمته عوض الدلاله
وقد شرا انكم الكيعان وايضا احمد باشا بناء تضيفون له مبلغ زياده على بدل المبيع ويتضح لكم صدق هذا الخبر
وعدمه اذا طلبتم منه تقرير في الدفتر الخاقاني لاخذ الاوراق هذا ما لزم رفعه لحضرتكم فحفظكم الله على المبطلين
والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته ٨ جماد الاخر سنه

الداعي الخالص
عبد الحميد شنشل

28 Jamadi al Akhir 1328
29th June 1910
(27th June J.F.U. 17/9/23 Case 6/152)
Memo.
مهما يتجدد من جديد اليوم نعرضه اليكم
اطال الله بقاكم
From Abdul Hamid (Agent in Basra).
To Sheikh

a/c. warns that he has heard from good source that Ahmed Pasha contemplates raising question of price & measurement & that Govt will give his land to whoever has the papers. What is to be done if they come to take possession. Thinks Abdul Wahab al Kirtas is at bottom of it to make more money & Ahmed Pasha also. Informs that information is from a good source.

152.
(137) 165

(Translation of enclosure No.4).

Dated 28th Jomadi II 1328.

7-6-1910.

To

His Excellency Mubarek Pasha el Subah.

A.C.

I hope that you will always be in good health.

I beg to inform you that I have learned from persons whom I consider relaible that Ahmed Pasha el Zoheir has been convinced by certain parties to abandon the execution of the settlement on the presumption that the value (paid) is less than what is the worth of the land and that the "Tash" river frontage) has not been included in the measurement and such nonsense. He has made up his mind to send surveyors to take measurements and if the surveyors are prevented from doing this, they will then turn out the farmers through the Government because he holds Government papers and the Government makes the land over to the party holding Govt papers without making a reference to the Courts. A certain friend of his has given him advices -and I think it must have been Abdul Wahhab el Qertas - (stating that) the matter will result in litigation and it is advisable that he should wait and he will of course receive a letter from Sheikh Mubarek to effect a settlement and that he should write that he has been deceived in the valuation and the land is more than the measurement and the "Tash" has not been included in the measurement and that either he should make a second measurement with an addition of so much money on every jarib, or, if he did not agree to this course, the land should be restored to him (Ahmed) and the value to be refunded by instalments in the course of 10 years. This is what his friend hastold him. Ahmed Pasha has kept quiet qccordingly. The object of these devilish temptations is that Abdul Wahhab el Qertas should intervene in the matter and be benefitted through his intervention by (the forsaking of) the claim which you have

against

(138) 153. 166

against him, in the same way that he was benefitted from the 2500 Turkish Pounds which was due to you by him, and which he took in lieu of brokerage when you purchased the lands. And Ahmed Pasha will probably not agree even if you pay him a larger amount than the value of the property, and the truth or falseness of this news will become evident to you whenever you wish to record his statement in the Govt Office for the purpose of taking out documents. This is what was necessary to be stated to you.

(sd) Abdul Hamid el Shoaibi.

P.S. I shall let you know anything fresh that may take place.

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(139) 154. 167

مولاي

اما احوال وحركات اهل البصره ليس خافيتكم ولا يوجد فيهم انسان عنده
نجابه وهذا الباحث طويل نسئل الله يصلح حالهم حيث جميع حركاتهم على طمع
دنيوي قبل كم يوم خطر لطرفنا احمد باشا الزهير والتعويمه السيد طالب
ويوسف المنديل واقنعوه حتى يمتنع بالكليه بعدم تفريغ الفداغيه ويفسد
المشتره ودراهم الذي قبضها يكفي يجعلها قصوت الى خمسة عشر سنه فكرنا
شابسون يوسف وطالب هذه الايام وتعرفون طالب حتى يجاهد ويحكي
مع احمد باشا ويجاهد مع الوالي على تفريغ الفداغيه ولا نشوف موافق تعطيل
الفراغ ازيد من هذه المده لان التعطيل لم آفات وبيت الزهير معلوم احوالهم
عند العالم وعند سعادتكم طالب ويوسف من مدة مجاهدين حتى يجعلون محاربه
بينكم وبين الوالي حسب الباين صار لهم دخل الى المحاربه وهي مسائل الذي
نتجت باطراف الزبير نهايب الذي صارت قبل ورود الوالي لطرفنا بيد مين
طالب واحمد ويوسف قنعو على سعادتك بأن هل نهايب جمعوها بأمر الشيخ
مبارك وحتى كتب مكتوب لسعادتكم من المحول عن هذه المسئله وامس خطر
الوالي على سعادتك ايضاً فهم الوالي هل نهايب بأمركم صارت والوالي عطاكم
تلغرافي قوي والسبب فكره يتغير حالاً ولا عنده استقامه والان الجماعه
مستعدين الى محاربتكم مع الوالي وتعرفون كيف انجاوبوه وهو يعتقد ان مسائل الزبير
مزوره والسبب القوي الذي فكدر الوالي سبب بالسابق انكم كاتبين تريدون
فراغ الفداغيه باسم اولادكم الكبار وهو كتب الى الاستانه وحصل الجواب ثم بعد
ذالك قلتم اريد الفراغ بسم ناصر والبنات هذا الذي ازعجه

155
(140) 168

(Translation of Enclosure No. 1).

Copy of a letter received from a Bussreh merchant who is a friend of mine.

Sir,

The circumstances add proceedings of the people of Basra are not hidden from you. Not a single man exists amongst them who may possess nobleness. This story is too long and I pray God to improve their condition, because all their proceedings are directed by wordly covetousness. A few days ago Ahmed Pasha el Zoheir xame to our side and met with Seyyid Taleb and Yusuf el Mandi and they convinced him to refuse absolutely the settlement of (the affair) of the el Fadaghia, to nullify the purchase and to refund the money he had received by instalments within fifteen years. In my opinion this is an intrigue of Yusuf and Taleb in these days. You may write to Taleb to use his endeavours and speak with Ahmed and also to use his influence with the Vali to effect a settlement of the el Fadaghia and I di not deem it advisable that the settlement should be delayed any further, because delay has evils. The doings of the house of Zoheir are well known to all the World and to yourself. Talbe and Yusuf have been trying for some time past to bring about annoyance between you and the Wali and it appears that they have found a course to do this in connection with the matter which occurred in the vicinity of Zobeir viz the plunder which took place 2 days prior to the Vali's arrival at our side. Taleb Ahmed and Yuuuf convinced Saadat Bey that all these plunders have been committed by order of Sheikh Mubarek and he even wrote you a letter from Mxhxxxxxxx Mohawwalah on this question. The Wali summoned Saadat Bey yesterday and he made the Wali to understand that this plunder had been done by your order and the Vali has sent you a strong telegram because he has a changeable mind and he has not firmness of mind. The clique are determined to create annoyance between you and the Vali and you should know how to reply to him. He believed that the

Zobeir

(141) 156 149

Zobeir question is a fabrication and the cause which has greatly contributed to his annoyance is that you wrote previously that you wished the el Fadaghia to be settled in the names of your older sons and he wrote to the Porte and obtained a reply, but you stated afterwards that you wished the settlement to be made in the name of Naser and your daughters. This is what has disturbed him.

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(142) 157 170

يقال ان الوالي متكدر من الشيخ مبارك بسبب ان بالسابق كاتب له يريد يجعل
الفداغيه باسم اولاده الكبار وعلى هذا الوالي كاتب الى استانبول ومستحصل الجواب
ثم الشيخ مبارك كاتب الى الوالي اريد اجعل باسم ناصر وبعض الحريم وسبب
اخر لزعله قالنا له ان البدوان الذي غاروا على اهل الزبير هم من عربان
الشيخ وهو مرسلهم بسبب بعض حركات اهل الزبير ضد الشيخ مبارك
وبهذي الاسباب الوالي متكدر جداً عن ان يصلح الاحوال ويقولون هذا
زعل الوالي بسببه احمد باشا الزهير ناكل من البيع ويريد يتشبث
ببعض الذي بخاطره

158.
(143) 171

(Enclosure No.3).

It is stated that the Wali is annoyed against Sheikh Mubarek because he (the Sheikh) wrote to him (Wali) that he wished to register el Fadaghia in the names of his elder sons and the Wali accordingly wrote to Constantinople and received a reply and that Sheikh Mubarek has then written to the Wali that he wishes to register it in the names of Naser and certain ladies. Another cause which has controbuted to his annoyance is that he has been told that the Bedouins who had plundered the people of Zobeir are the Arabs of the Sheikh and that the latter had sent them to do so in consequence of certain proceedings taken by the people of Zobeir against Sheikh Mubarek. For these reasons the Wali is greatly annoyed. May God improve the situation.

It is said that the Wali's annoyance has been brought about by Ahmed Pasha el Zoheir who repudiates the sale and wishes to use certain means which he has in view.

159.
144
172

عدد ١٢ جناب صديقنا الاكرم صاحب السعاده مبارك الصباح باشا قائمقام الكويت المحترم

سعادتلو افندم حضرتلري

قد اخذنا مكتوبكم العزيز المؤرخ ٧ جماد الاول ٣٢٨ معلومًا لدينا ما ذكرتم لا يمكننا ان نقول قد خفي لدى حضرتكم ما وقعنا من المزاحم بخصوص حل عقد كتي ربطها حضرة محرم افندي فاظافيرنا الان تحمل ذالك التعب وفي النتيجة قد استحصلنا ارادة الباب العالي على الفداغيه يجعلها باسم اربعة مخادميكم المحروسين وحضرتكم ايضًا كنتم قد طلبتم ذالك فالان في مكتوبكم هذا قد عدلتم عما اردتم وتطلبون اجراء المعامله في اسم نجلكم ناحريك واخواته فقط فهذا نحن لا نقدر ان نبينه للباب العالي حيث انه يكون مناقضًا للطلب ويستلزم ارجاع نظرهم لما حرره يراع محرم افندي واذا حضرتكم اجبتم مراجعت الباب العالي وورود استفسار على هاته المسئله فيا للاسف لا يمكننا ان نقول خلاف الاقوال السابقه كتي عليها استحصلنا اولًا الباب العالي ولحضرتكم املاك جسيمة هاهنا فمن الممكن ان تامرون بجعل تلك الاملاك باسم نجلكم ناحريك وتجعلون معاملة الفداغيه تمشي بموجب ما تقرر وتحسمون هذه المسئلة وهذا ما تبادر لفكرنا فبالطبع جنابكم تعرفون مصلحتكم والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته ٤ جماد الاول ٣٢٨ وال ماشي

والاولويت لجهه
سليمان نضيف

Copy of letter from Wali to Sheikh
dt 4th Jamadi al awal 1328.

Suleiman Nathif-Bey

This is the last correspondence between Wali & Sheikh regarding Fadhagiya.

160.
(145) 174

(Enclosure No. 2).

4th Jemadi I 1328.
12-6-10.

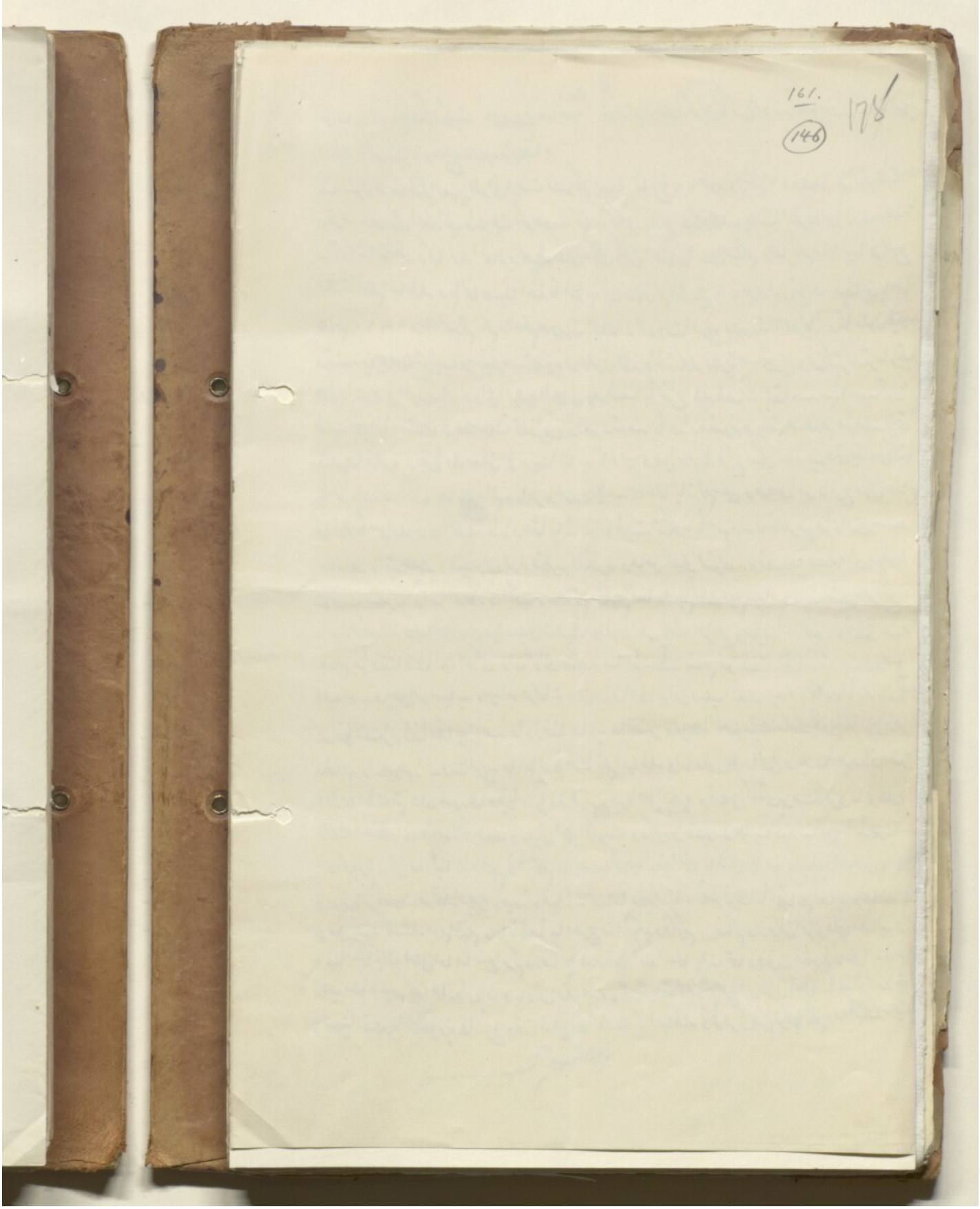
To

His Excellency Mubarek-el-Subah Pasha,
Kaimmakam (Deputy Governor) of Koweit.

Sir,

I have duly received your esteemed letter dated 27th Jemadi I 1328 and I understood what you has stated. I cannot say that it is hidden from you as to what troubles I took to untie the knot formed by H.E. Mahram Effendi. My hand nails are still feeling the pain and as a result I obtained an irade from the Sublime Porte that the el Fadaghia should be placed in the name of yout four sons and you had also requested for this. Now in this your letter you have abandoned what you had asked for and requested that the bargain should be made in the names of your son, Naser Bey and his ~~xxx~~ sisters only. This I cannot represent to the Sublime Porte because it is different from your request and it becomes necessary for them to draw their attention to what had been written by Mahram Effendi, and if you desire that a reference should be made to the Sublime Porte you may in that case being forward an argument against that point. It is ~~xx~~ to be regretted that I cannot say anything against my previous statement, according to which I obtained an order from the Sublime Porte. You have large properties in these parts and it is possible for you to give orders that those properties should be registered in the names of your son Naser Bey and let the Fadaghia bargain to be made as arranged and thus put an end to this question. This is what has crossed my mind, and you will naturally know what is advisable for you. Salaams.

(sd) Wali of the Province of Busreh. Suleiman Nazif.



من مبارك الصباح حاكم الكويت الى حضرة صاحب الشوكة والاجلال كرنيل كاكس بالبوز قنصل جنرال الدولة البهية
القيصرية الانكليزية في خليج فارس دام بقاه

غب السؤال عن خاطركم العزيز هو اني عرضت لصوبكم العالي بتاريخ ٦ جماد اول ١٣٢٨ مفصلاً عن التلاعب المحذور
وقوعه على ملكي الفداغية وارسلت لكم صورت كتاب وكيل البايع عبد الوهاب باشا القرطاسي الذي به يحذرنا
من آفات التأخير وكنا نرى المحاذير محيطة على ملكي وكنت اعتماداً على حميتكم وحمايتكم ما بالينا في جميع
تشبثاتهم الباطلة وبالخاصة لما اخذنا الجواب من حضرتكم المؤرخ ٨ جماد اول ٣٢٨ مطابق ٧ جون
عام ١٩١٠ وبه امرتم انكم رفعتم صورت الحال الى الدولة البهية بصورت التلغراف وتأملون ليكون
مقتدرين يعملون ترتيب وسيلة مستصوبة لدخلول هذه المشكلة بطريق مستحسن ونحن كثيراً استرنا ديقنا
هذه المدة في الانتظار ووالي البصرة الحالي يلاطفنا بأنواع الملاطفات لمقاصد سياسية اولاً
طلب مني ان استدعي في مدسلك تلغراف وتعذرت منه بأعذار مقبولة وبينت له عدم موافقة رعيتي
واصرفنا فكره وبقي امله معلق في جهت الثانية بناء يستحصل الامر في فراغ ملكي الفداغية حتى يقتضي اتيانها
بأسم اولادي الكبار جابر وسالم وناصر وحمد ويطلب مني عثمانيات لهم سمي وحصل امر في فراغ ملكي الفداغية
عن قوله بأسم اولادي الكبار واراد عثمانيات وانا طلبت انتكون بأسم ولدي ناصر مع خوته القصر سبه
مناصفة واقيمة عليهم وصي شرعي لانه متقرب للتقوى وحامل العلم الشريف وقصدي اجعله متحد مع خوته
في ملك منفرد واما اولادي الكبار عندهم ملكهم الفا وجسيم كافي لهم مهما اردنا ان نقسمه فلا قنع
والان الامور الذي كنا محاذرين منها حصل التشبث بها لان احديات الزهير وصل من اسطنبول وتحقق عنده
عدم موافقتنا لمطالب الوالي وان الوالي متكدر منا بواسطة عدم موافقتنا لمطالبه تشبث في وضع
اليد وبدى يعمل الاسباب ويسند حركاته على اوراق الطابو الاصلية الذي بيده والحكومة تأمله بالمعاهدة
لانها تعتبر اوراق الطابو رسمية واوراقنا عادية ما تعتبر وكل هذا العمل يقصد الوالي تخويفنا لاجل اوفق
مطالبه وانا بوجود الدولة البهية ما ابالي في حركاتهم الباطلة وانا متمسك بالحق وبيدي ضمن اوراق معتبرة
الذي اطلعتم على صورها وفيها شهادة عموم وجوه اهل البصرة وقنصل الدولة الفخيمة مستركر وبناء على
ذالك اعتقد اني واولادي وبلدي ورعيتي اهل الكويت وملكي داخلين في حمايت الدولة البهية القيصرية
الانكليزية ولكن لما رئينا تداخلهم وتشبثهم على حسب الاخبارات التي نافتق بها من وكيلنا الموجود في البصرة
وبعض الاصحاب من تجار البصرة وصور الاخبارات تجدها بطيه انشاء تشرفونها بأنظاركم العاليه وتجاهدون
في حل هذه المسئلة يوم اقدم وانا قطعاً ما اخرج من رئيكم وفكركم ورضاكم ولا وافق الوالي على مطالبه في
اخذ العثمانيات فبمثل ما انا متبع امركم ورضاكم في عدم قبول اخذ العثمانيات تحافظون حقوقي وملكي الذي اخذت
عليه مبلغ جسيم بين عمار وكريان وبناء من التلاعب وقد شرحت لحضرتكم جميع الاحوال أمل ساعدت الدولة
البهية القيصرية الانكليزية في اسرع وقت تدفع عني التشبثات الباطلة وتشملوني بحسن توجهاتكم ودمتم محروسين

٦ رجب ١٣٢٨

162

176

(147)

Dated 6th Rajab 1328.

13th July 1910.

From

Sheikh Mubarek es Subah, Ruler of Koweit.

To

Colonel Cox, British Resident and Consul General Bushire.

A.C.

I represented to you descriptively on the 26th Jemadi I 1328 about the dangers which threatened to overtake my property el Fadaghia and forwarded to you a copy of the letter from the Agent of the seller, Abdul Wahhab Pasha el Qertas in which he warned me of the evils of delay and I (stated that 8) saw dangers surrounding my property but that my confidence was in your sense of honour and protection. I did not care for all their vain intrigues especially when I received a reply from you dated the 28th Jemadi I 1328 corresponding with the 7th June 1910 in which you stated that the facts of the case have been represented by telegraph to the Government by you and that you hoped that they will be able to devise a proper scheme for the solution of this difficulty in a satisfactory manner. I was much pleased and remained waiting during this period and the present Vali of Busreh used to evince to me all sorts of courtesy for political ends. Firstly, he asked me to beg for the extension of telegraph wire and I excused myself with suitable excuses and explained to him the disagreement of my subjects (to such a course) and diverted his mind. His only hope depended on the second matter viz the obtaining of orders for the settlement of my property, the el Fadaghia so that he may convince me to register it in the names of my elder sons, Jaber, Salem, Naser and Hamad and take out Turkish papers of Nationality; but I asked that it (the property) should be (registered) in the names of my son Naser and his seven sisters who are minors and that he (Naser) should be appointed as their

their legal guardian because he is nearly pious and possesses the noble knowledge (Theology) and it was my intention to leave him with his sisters in an isolated property. My elder sons possess the property at Fao which is a large one, and which will be sufficient for them. I tried much to convince him but he could not be convinced.

Now there has occurred the intrigue which I feared would take place in the affair, viz, that Ahmed Pasha el Zaheir has arrived from Constantinople and learned about my disagreement with the objects of the Wali and the Wali's annoyance against me for my failure to comply with his objects; and he has begun to meddle with the affair and to bring about causes, basing his action on the Government Tapoo which he has in his possession. The local Government also renders him assistance on the strength of the official Government Tapoo. My papers being of the ordinary form, are not to be considered as reliable. All these actions are taken by the Wali with the object of frightening me to yield to his demands. I however do not care for their vain action by the goodgraces of the High Government and I depend on righteousness and hold reliable documents from them and have shown them copies thereof, and they contain the testimonials of all the leading men of Busreh and the British Consul, Mr. Crow.

Under these circumstances I believe that I myself, my sons, my town, my subjects, the inhabitants of Koweit and my properties are under the protection of the British Government; but as I saw their interference and the intrigues used by them according to reliable information which I have received from my Agent at Busreh and from certain merchants of Busreh who are on friendly terms wi me, I send you herewith, the copies of those informations. Inshallah they will be perused by you and you will endeavour to solve this question a day sooner (i.e. at an early date). I will not absolutely proceed beyond your opinion idea and consent and shall not agree with the Valli in his object as regards the taking of Turkish papers of Nationality. In the same way that I am obedient to your orders and consent in refusing to take Turkish

papers

papers of Nationality, you may safeguard my rights and my property on which I have spent a large sum of money, for making ~~xxxxxxxx~~ watercourses and burrowing, and also protest me from the dodges.

I have described all the facts to you, hoping to receive the assistance of the British Government at the earliest time. Please defend me against vain intrigues and afford me your kind regards.

May you ever be preserved.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 2011, dated Bushire, the 24th July (received 1st August) 1910.

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. Z. COX, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

I have the honour to forward, in amplification of my telegram No. 741, dated 20th July 1910, copies of the papers on which it was based; the subject being the difficulties which the Shaikh of Kuwait is experiencing from the Turkish authorities in connection with the transfer of his property at Fadaghia.

(1) Political Agent, Kuwait, to Resident, No. C.-44, dated 13th July 1910.
(2) Shaikh Mubarak to Resident, dated 13th July 1910, and enclosures.

below page 199

No. C.-44, dated Kuwait, the 13th July 1910.

From—CAPTAIN W. H. I. SHAKESPEAR, I.A., Political Agent, Kuwait,

To—The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

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I have the honour to invite a reference to the correspondence ending with my letter No. C.-40 of the 30th June 1910, regarding Shaikh Mubarak's Fadaghia property, and to forward herewith a letter with enclosures to your address from the Shaikh.

2. Yesterday evening, the Shaikh requested that I would come and see him as he had received some important news. On arrival, he had read to me a letter from his Basrah Agent as well as some other secret news to the same effect, one letter being from a man whom I know to be one of the most influential men in Basrah and whose name he begged me to keep absolutely secret.

3. As will be apparent from the Shaikh's letter and enclosures, there is reason to believe that Ahmad Pasha az Zuhair (who has just returned from Constantinople) is likely to question the sale of the Fadaghia property either on account of inaccurate measurement or inadequate price. Whatever pretext may be used, it seems fairly certain that some method of re-opening the question of the original sale is to be employed, and Shaikh Mubarak will then find himself in the position, already foreseen, of being unable to appear in a Turkish Court of law to uphold his just rights, while the courts or the "Tapu" office have the legal power to declare Ahmad Pasha as owner and to give him possession.

4. The Shaikh himself thinks that the course, which Ahmad Pasha is reported to be contemplating, must undoubtedly have the support of the Vali, if it was not actually suggested by him, in order to force Mubarak into accepting Turkish nationality. Abdul Wahab el Kertas was Ahmad Pasha's attorney in the sale to Mubarak and the latter then forgave him a debt of £T.2,500 in return for his good offices as broker, but Abdul Wahab still owes the Shaikh a considerable sum. The Shaikh considers he is no longer to be trusted and that he is quite capable of posing as the friend in need of either party, being governed in his choice solely by the amount he is likely to receive for his services. Ahmad Pasha, if he has the covert support of the Vali, is hardly likely to resist the temptation of bleeding Mubarak, or, if he objects to that process, of prosecuting a claim for the property, worth it must be remembered some £50,000. The preposterous nature of his reported proposal to consider the sale void and to return to Mubarak the purchase price in 10 years gives an idea of what is contemplated when it is noted that Mubarak has already long since paid over the full price, been in possession a year and a half, and spent considerable sums in improvements, drainage, buildings, planting, etc., on the property.

5. From other secret letters the Shaikh showed me, it appears that Ahmad Pasha az Zuhair, Yusuf al Mandil and Sayid Talib (son of the Nakib) have realized that by misrepresenting matters to the Vali so as to damage Mubarak they have a very good opportunity of keeping themselves in funds at Mubarak's expense. These are three of the most influential men in Basrah, two being Parliamentary representatives, and as the Shaikh truly said, the Vali,

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who is already inclined to credit Mubarak with intriguing with the English, is almost certain to accept the *dicta* of such prominent men, however improbable the story may be. The enclosures to the Shaikh's letter contain evidence that these three men may be acting in concert, both in the matter of delaying or preventing registration of his property, and also in poisoning the acting Vali's (Saad Bey's) mind over the Zobeir incident referred to my in my letter No. C-43, of the 12th July 1910.

The Shaikh is justified in his fear, and I think His Majesty's Consul at Basrah will confirm my opinion that, should these three prominent men support any improbable story with their collective influence, there is no doubt that the Turkish officials would accept their view, almost without question.

6. The Shaikh was particularly frank with me, because I think he is now more thoroughly alarmed than he has hitherto been. He has held out against all the Vali's persuasion to register his children as Turkish subjects; the Vali, therefore, though outwardly friendly, is undoubtedly chagrined at his failure: consequently, an atmosphere particularly favourable to the usual methods of Turkish intrigue now exists.

7. I did my best to reassure the Shaikh, enjoining him to be especially careful in his dealings with the Vali so as on no account to rouse active hostility. He assured me he would not register either himself or his children as Turkish subjects without the consent of the British Government but he looked to us to assist him in this present difficulty.

8. He asked my advice as to what course he should pursue in the event of Ahmad Pasha az Zuhair actually sending men to resume possession of the Fadaghia property whether accompanied by Turkish officials or without them. I replied I could hardly advice him without reference to the Resident, but I was sure it would be as well to warn his fellahin and agent on the estate (Shaikh Saleh bin Brahim living at Dora) that on no account should there be any show of force or active hostility. Should an attempt be made to resume possession, his agent might endeavour to gain time by treating the intruders hospitably, explaining that he had no orders from his master and that without them he could not leave his charge, whilst requesting them to address the Shaikh direct in the matter. The Shaikh had a letter drafted to this effect at once, and I trust that in the circumstances my action will meet with approval.

In view of the Shaikh's extreme anxiety, I would solicit the favour of instructions, for the Shaikh certainly anticipates some such move very shortly.

P. S.—Since the above was drafted, the Shaikh has sent me a copy of the last communication from the Vali on the subject of this property, of which I have the honour to enclose a copy with the Shaikh's own letter. It will be seen that the Vali's offer of assistance differs materially from that described in Mr. Consul Crow's letter No. 20, dated the 6th June 1910, to your address. The Shaikh has sent no reply to this letter.

Dated 6th Rajab 1328, 13th July 1910.

From—SHAIKH MUBARAK-ES-SUBAH, Ruler of Kuwait,

To—COLONEL COX, British Resident and Consul-General, Bushire.

After Compliments.—I represented to you descriptively on the 26th Jemadi I 1328 about the dangers which threatened to overtake my property el Fadaghia and forwarded to you a copy of the letter from the Agent of the seller, Abdul Wahab Pasha el Kertas in which he warned me of the evils of delay, and I (stated that I) saw dangers surrounding my property but that my confidence was in your sense of honour and protection. I did not care for all their vain intrigues especially when I received a reply from you dated the 28th Jemadi I 1328 corresponding with the 7th June 1910 in which you stated that the facts of the case have been represented by telegraph to the Government by you and that you hoped that they will be able to devise a proper scheme for the solution of this difficulty in a satisfactory manner. I was much pleased and remained waiting during this period, and the present Vali of Basrah used to evince to me

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all sorts of courtesy for political ends. Firstly, he asked me to beg for the extension of telegraph wire and I excused myself with suitable excuses and explained to him the disagreement of my subjects (to such a course) and diverted his mind. His only hope depended on the second matter, *viz.*, the obtaining of orders for the settlement of my property, the el Fadaghia, so that he may convince me to register it in the names of my elder sons, Jaber, Salem, Naser and Hamad and take out Turkish papers of nationality; but I asked that it (the property) should be (registered) in the names of my son Naser and his seven sisters who are minors and that he (Naser) should be appointed as their legal guardian because he is nearly pious and possesses the noble knowledge (Theology), and it was my intention to leave him with his sisters in an isolated property. My elder sons possess the property at Fao which is a large one, and which will be sufficient for them. I tried much to convince him but he could not be convinced.

Now there has occurred the intrigue which I feared would take plece in the affair, *viz.*, that Ahmad Pasha az Zuhair has arrived from Constantinople and learned about my disagreement with the objects of the Vali and the Vali's annoyance against me for my failure to comply with his objects; and he has begun to meddle with the affair and to bring about causes, basing his action on the Government Tapu which he has in his possession The local Government also renders him assistance on the strength of the official Government Tapu. My papers being of the ordinary from, are not to be considered as reliable. All these actions are taken by the Vali with the object of frightening me to yield to his demands. I however do not care for their vain action by the good graces of the High Government, and I depend on righteousness and hold reliable documents from them and have shown them copies thereof, and they contain the testimonials of all the leading men of Basrah and the British Consul, Mr. Crow.

Under these circumstances I believe that I myself, my sons, my town, my subjects, the inhabitants of Kuwait and my properties are under the protection of the British Government; but, as I saw their interference and the intrigues used by them according to reliable information which I have received from my Agent at Basrah and from certain merchants of Basrah who are on friendly terms with me, I send you herewith, the copies of those informations. Inshallah, they will be perused by you and you will endeavour to solve this question a day sooner (*i.e.*, at an early date). I will not absolutely proceed beyond your opinion, idea and consent, and shall not agree with the Vali in his object as regards the taking of Turkish papers of nationality. In the same way that I am obedient to your orders and consent in refusing to take Turkish papers of nationality, you may safeguard my rights and my property on which I have spent a large sum of money, for making watercoures and burrowing, and also protect me from the dodges.

I have described all the facts to you, hoping to receive the assistance of the British Government at the earliest time. Please defend me against vain intrigues and afford me your kind regards.

May you ever be preserved.

(TRANSLATION OF ENCLOSURE NO. 1.)

Copy of a letter received from a Basrah merchant who is a friend of mine.

Sir,

The circumstances and proceedings of the people of Basrah are not hidden from you. Not a single man exists amongst them who may possess nobleness. This story is too long and I pray God to improve their condition, because all their proceedings are directed by worldly covetousness. A few days ago Ahmad Pasha az Zuhair came to our side and met with Sayid Talib and Yusuf el Mandi and they convinced him to refuse absolutely the settlement of (the affair) of the el Fadaghia, to nullify the purchase and to refund the money he had received by instalments within fifteen years. In my opinion this is an intrigue of Yusuf and Talib in these days You may write to Talib to use his endeavours and speak with Ahmad and also to use his influence with the Vali to effect a

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settlement of the el Fadaghia and I do not deem it advisable that the settlement should be delayed any further, because delay has evils. The doings of the house of Zuhair are well known to all the world and to yourself. Talib and Yusuf have been trying for some time past to bring about annoyance between you and the Vali, and it appears that they have found a course to do this in connection with the matter which occurred in the vicinity of Zobeir, *viz.*, the plunder which took place 2 days prior to the Vali's arrival at our side. Talib, Ahmad and Yusuf convinced Saadat Bey that all these plunders have been committed by order of Shaikh Mubarak and he even wrote you a letter from Mohawwalah on this question. The Vali summoned Saadat Bey yesterday and he made the Vali to understand that this plunder had been done by your order, and the Vali has sent you a strong telegram because he has a changeable mind and he has not firmness of mind. The clique are determined to create annoyance between you and the Vali and you should know how to reply to him. He believes that the Zobeir question is a fabrication and the cause which has greatly contributed to his annoyance is that you wrote previously that you wished the el Fadaghia to be settled in the names of your elder sons and he wrote to the Porte and obtained a reply, but you stated afterwards that you wished the settlement to be made in the name of Naser and your daughters. This is what has disturbed him.

(ENCLOSURE NO. 2.)

4th Jemadi I 1328, 12th June 1910.

To His Excellency Mubarak-es-Subah Pasha, Kaimmakam (Deputy Governor) of Kuwait.

SIR,

I have duly received your esteemed letter dated 27th Jemadi I 1328 and I understood what you have stated. I cannot say that it is hidden from you as to what troubles I took to untie the knot formed by His Excellency Mahram Effendi. My hand nails are still feeling the pain, and as a result I obtained an irade from the Sublime Porte that the el Fadaghia should be placed in the name of your four sons and you had also requestsd for this. Now, in this your letter you have abandoned what you had asked for and requested that the bargain should be made in the names of your son, Naser Bey and his sisters only. This I cannot represent to the Sublime Porte because it is different from your request, and it becomes necessary for them to draw their attention to what had been written by Mahram Effendi, and if you desire that a reference should be made to the Sublime Porte you may in that case bring forward an argument against that point. It is to be regretted that I cannot say anything against my previous statement, according to which I obtained an order from the Sublime Porte. You have large properties in these parts and it is possible for you to give orders that those properties should be registered in the names of your son, Naser Bey, and let the Fadaghia bargain to be made as arranged and thus put an end to this question. This is what has crossed my mind, and you will naturally know what is advisable for you. Salaams.

(Sd.) SULEIMAN NAZIF,

Vali of the Province of Basrah.

(ENCLOSURE NO. 3.)

It is stated that the Vali is annoyed against Shaikh Mubarak because he (the Shaikh) wrote to him (Vali) that he wished to register el Fadaghia in the names of his elder sons and the Vali accordingly wrote to Constantinople and received a reply, and that Shaikh Mubarak has then written to the Vali that he wishes to register it in the names of Naser and certain ladies. Another cause which has contributed to his annoyance is that he has been told that the Bedouins who had plundered the people of Zobeir are the Arabs of the Shaikh

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and that the latter had sent them to do so in consequence of certain proceedings taken by the people of Zobeir against Shaikh Mubarak. For these reasons the Vali is greatly annoyed. May God improve the situation.

It is said that the Vali's annoyance has been brought about by Ahmad Pasha az-Zuhair who repudiates the sale and wishes to use certain means which he has in view.

(TRANSLATION OF ENCLOSURE NO. 4.)

Dated 28th Jemadi II 1328, 7th June 1910.

To His Excellency Mubarak Pasha es Subah.

After Compliments.—I hope that you will always be in good health.

I beg to inform you that I have learned from persons whom I consider reliable that Ahmad Pasha az Zuhair has been convinced by certain parties to abandon the execution of the settlement on the presumption that the value (paid) is less than what is the worth of the land and that the "Tash" (river frontage) has not been included in the measurement and such nonsense. He has made up his mind to send surveyors to take measurements, and, if the surveyors are prevented from doing this, they will then turn out the farmers through the Government because he holds Government papers, and the Government makes the land over to the party holding Government papers without making a reference to the Courts. A certain friend of his has given him advices —and I think it must have been Abdul Wahab-el-Kertas—(stating that) the matter will result in litigation and it is advisable that he should wait, and he will of course receive a letter from Shaikh Mubarak to effect a settlement and that he should write that he has been deceived in the valuation, and the land is more than the measurement and the "Tash" has not been included in the measurement, and that either he should make a second measurement with an addition of so much money on every jarib, or, if he did not agree to this course, the land should be restored to him (Ahmad) and the value to be refunded by instalments in the course of 10 years. This is what his friend has told him. Ahmad Pasha has kept quiet accordingly. The object of these devilish temptations is that Abdul Wahab-el-Kertas should intervence in the matter and be benefited through his intervention by (the forsaking of) the claim which you have against him, in the same way that he was benefited from the 2,500 Turkish pounds which was due to you by him, and which he took in lieu of brokerage when you purchased the lands. And Ahmad Pasha will probably not agree even if you pay him a larger amount than the value of the property, and the truth or falseness of this news will become evident to you whenever you wish to record his statement in the Government Office for the purpose of taking out documents. This is what was necessary to be stated to you.

(Sd.) ABDUL HAMID-EL-SHOAIBI.

P. S.—I shall let you know anything fresh that may take place.

C. C. B. P., Simla.—No. C 2866 F. D.—10-8-10.—44—E. A. D'S.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

DRAFT—(For Approval).

POLITICAL ~~RESIDENCY, PERSIAN GULF~~ Agency Koweit

No. D/0

Dated 13 July 1910

P.R. Basra.

My dear Colonel,

Just before the post closes here is a startling new proposal the Sheikh fired at me half an hour ago. He wants to go up about a fortnight or less hence to give out date contracts & unless he goes in person will suffer considerable loss. He distrusts the Turks so much that he begs a man-of-war may be in the river at the same time & anchor at Fao, Fadhagiya, and Mubarriza when he is at those places. I said that I thought it would be impossible as the connection was so obvious and would raise awkward questions with the Wali probably; a man-of-war was generally in the river at date season but that would be some time after and even then I thought she would be able to anchor at Basra, Mohammerah, & Fao only without suspicion. I said I would send on his

S 638—12,000-7-08

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(Continuation of Note, Précis or Draft.)

request to you & no doubt you would do whatever was possible in the circumstances. The old gentleman is scared to death now of the Turks after the bombardment near Mohammerah and the turn his Fadhaghja affairs are taking. I don't know when the date season ships usually come up but perhaps it may be possible to send it up a bit earlier if you think of assisting him.

In haste
Yours sincerely
W. H. P. S.

S 639—12,000-7-08

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(155)

Confidential.

No. 1881 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 10th July 1910.

A copy of the undermentioned communication is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information, with reference to the correspondence ending with his letter No. C.40 dated 30th June 1910.

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By Order,

S. Crosthwaite. Captain,

Second Assistant Resident.

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Resident to Foreign. Letter No. 1880 dated 10th July 1910.

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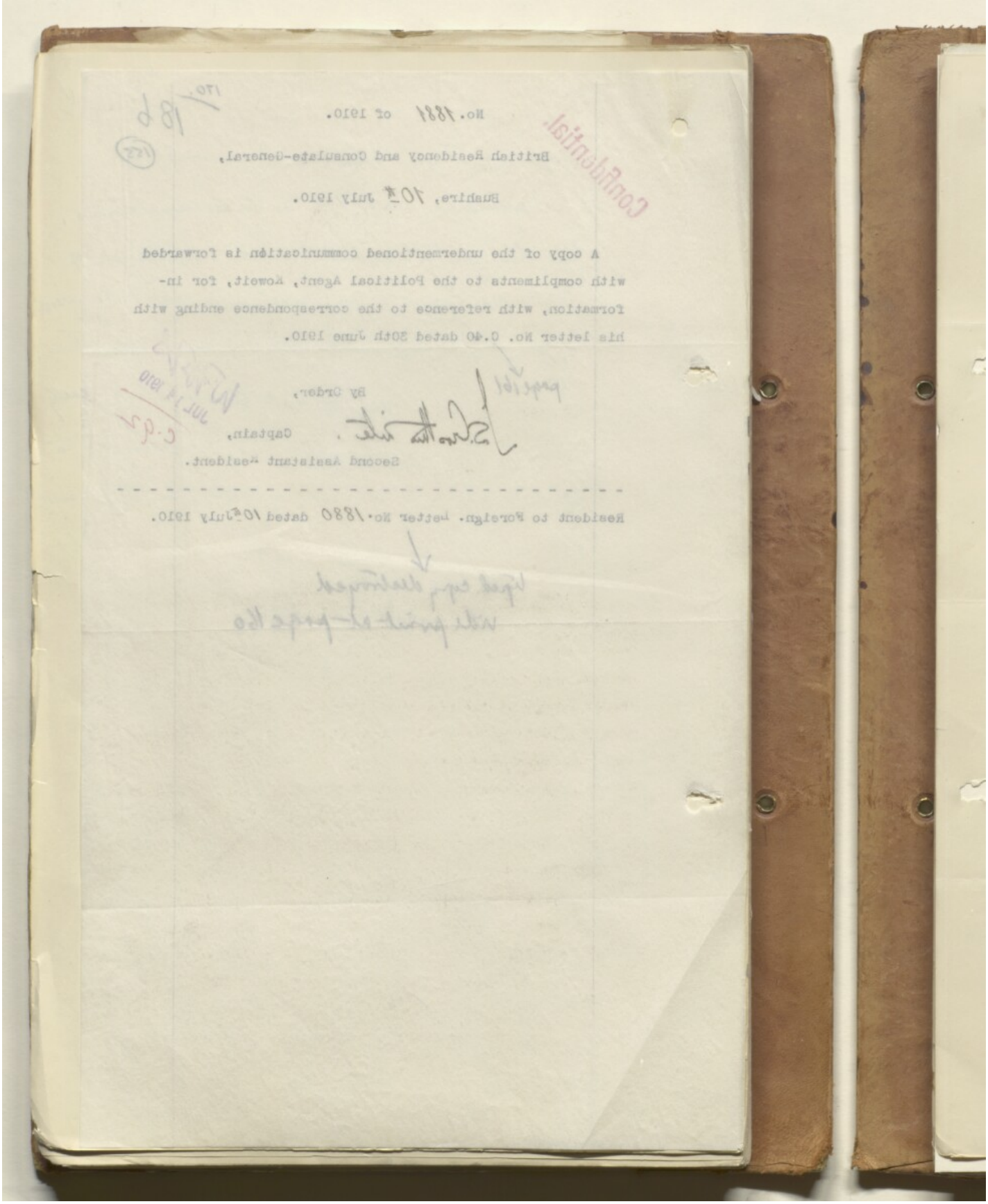

No. 1881 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 10th July 1910.

A copy of the undermentioned communication is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information, with reference to the correspondence ending with his letter No. C.40 dated 30th June 1910.

By Order,

Captain,

Second Assistant Resident.

Resident to Foreign. Letter No. 1880 dated 10th July 1910.

Confidential

No. 1891 of 190 .

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JUL 14 1910
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BRITISH RESIDENCY AND CONSULATE GENERAL:
Bushire, the 12th July 1910.

A copy of the accompanying x letter is forwarded, with compliments, to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information,.

By order,

L Birdwood

Captain,
First Assistant Resident.

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x From the Political Agent, Bahrein, to the Resident No 465 dated 2nd July 1910.

S 746—2,000-10-08

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157 188

Copy of a letter No.465, dated the 2nd July 1910, from Captain C.F.Mackenzie, I.A., Political Agent, Bahrein, to Lieut-Colonel P.Z.Cox, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

In reply to your letter No.1678, dated the 25th June 1910, I have the honour to inform you that Sheikh Jasem bin Muhammad bin Ali bin Ibrahim of Koweit origin, the biggest Arab merchant in Bombay, wrote to Muqbil adh Thakair, of Najd origin, the most important although not the richest merchant in Bahrein, to raise subscription among his friends for the Turkish fleet, because all the Arabs in Bombay had done so.

This Sheikh Jasim had seen that similar subscriptions had been got up in Egypt, Jeddah, Beirout and elsewhere, but whether he was requested to raise these subscriptions in Bombay and Bahrein or whether he did so of his own initiative it is difficult to say. It is believed that he perhaps wished to be given a Turkish title.

2. Muqbil adh Thakair has been a personal friend of this family "Al bin Brahim" for many years, and it is almost impossible for an Arab to refuse a request made him by a friend.

On receipt of this letter he accordingly spoke to Yusuf Kano and Musaad bin Khalifa, who may be considered as the next two influential merchants, and both of them promised to subscribe. Other merchants were then called to Muqbil's house and subscriptions were given.

A few days later Muqbil and Yusuf Kano went to Muharraq to patch up a quarrel between two other big merchants, Yusuf Fakhru and Shahin bin Saqar. After settling the points in dispute Muqbil again asked for subscriptions when these two and other merchants of Muharraq also gave according to their means.

Muqbil and Yusuf Kano also went to Hadd to collect subscriptions.

The total collected was about Rs.12,000/- but it has not

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yet been remitted to Sheikh Jasim "Al bin Brahim".

3. I was informed of the movement from its start by Yusuf Kano, who also gave me the names of the principal subscribers, but being so certain it has no political signification in Bahrein I did not consider details would be of much interest.

There were probably 150 subscribers altogether and a partial list is given in the Basrah paper الزوراء dated the 30th Jamadi ul Awwal. No Shiahs subscribed though they would probably have done so if they had been asked.

4. I would add that Sheikh Jasim became the leader Arab merchant recently on death of his uncle "Abdul Aziz bin Ali Al Brahim" in Bombay, and I believe his correspondence still is continued in the name of this deceased Abdul Aziz.

5. I will keep a special look out for any pro Turkish proclivities and will address you again on the subject shortly.

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(159) 192

Bushire 174. 190
July 12 1910.
(159A)

JUL 14 1910
C. 45

My dear Shakespear.
Please see your Diary for 15th June last page, & your letter C. 36. dated 15th June.
Please keep in mind the two reports therein mentioned regarding
(i) Location of Turkish Detachment at Kowait
(ii) Control of Nejd, Hasa

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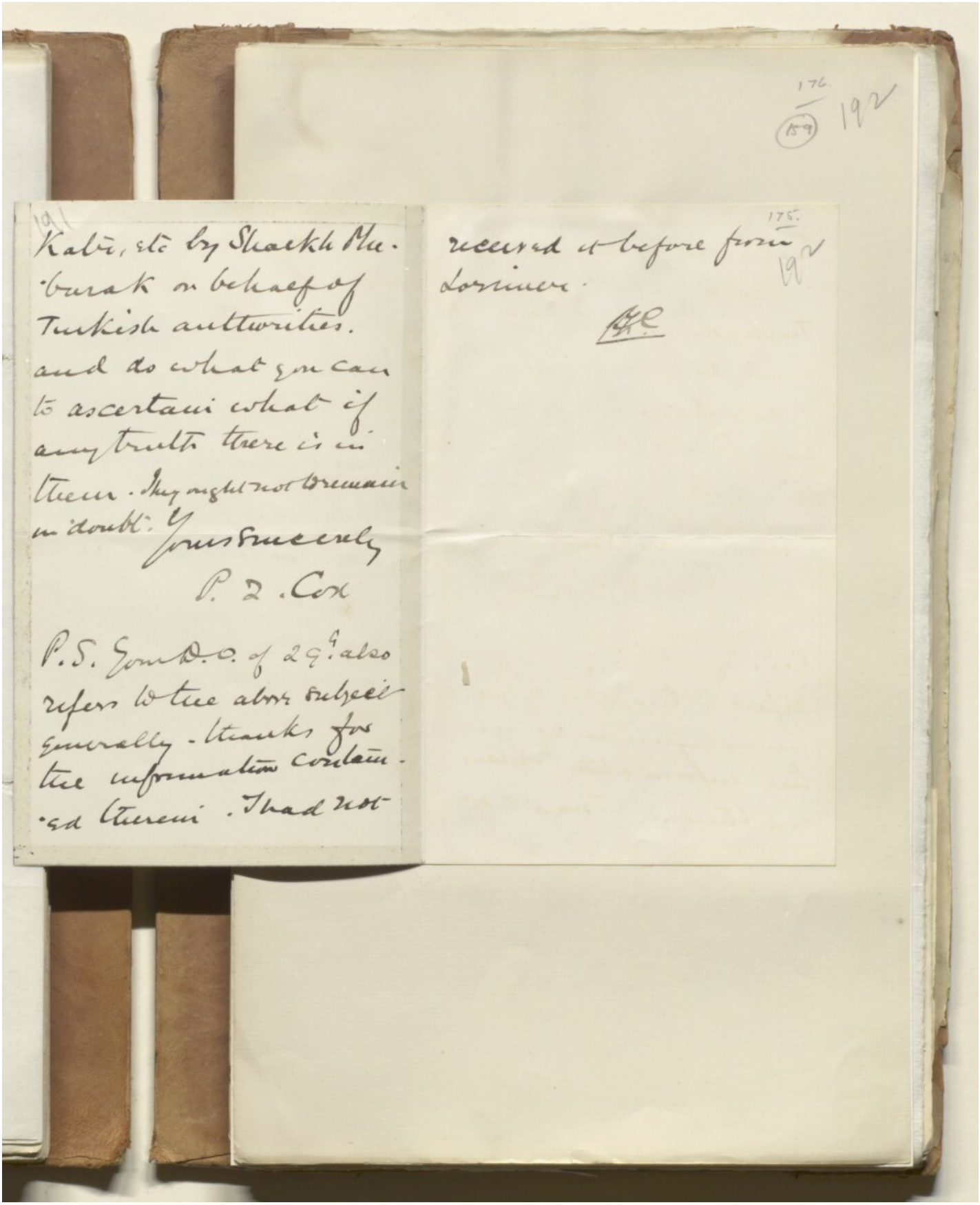
Kabir, etc by Shaikh Mu-
-barak on behalf of
Turkish authorities.
and do what you can
to ascertain what if
any truth there is in
them. They might not be remain
in doubt. Yours sincerely
P. Z. Cox

P.S. Your D.O. of 29th also
refers to the above subject
generally - thanks for
the information contain-
-ed therein. I had not



Kabir, etc by Shaikh Mubarak on behalf of Turkish authorities. and do what you can to ascertain what if any truth there is in them. They ought not to remain in doubt.

Yours sincerely

P. Z. Cox

P.S. Your D.O. of 29th also refers to the above subject generally. thanks for the information contained therein. I had not received it before from Lorimer.

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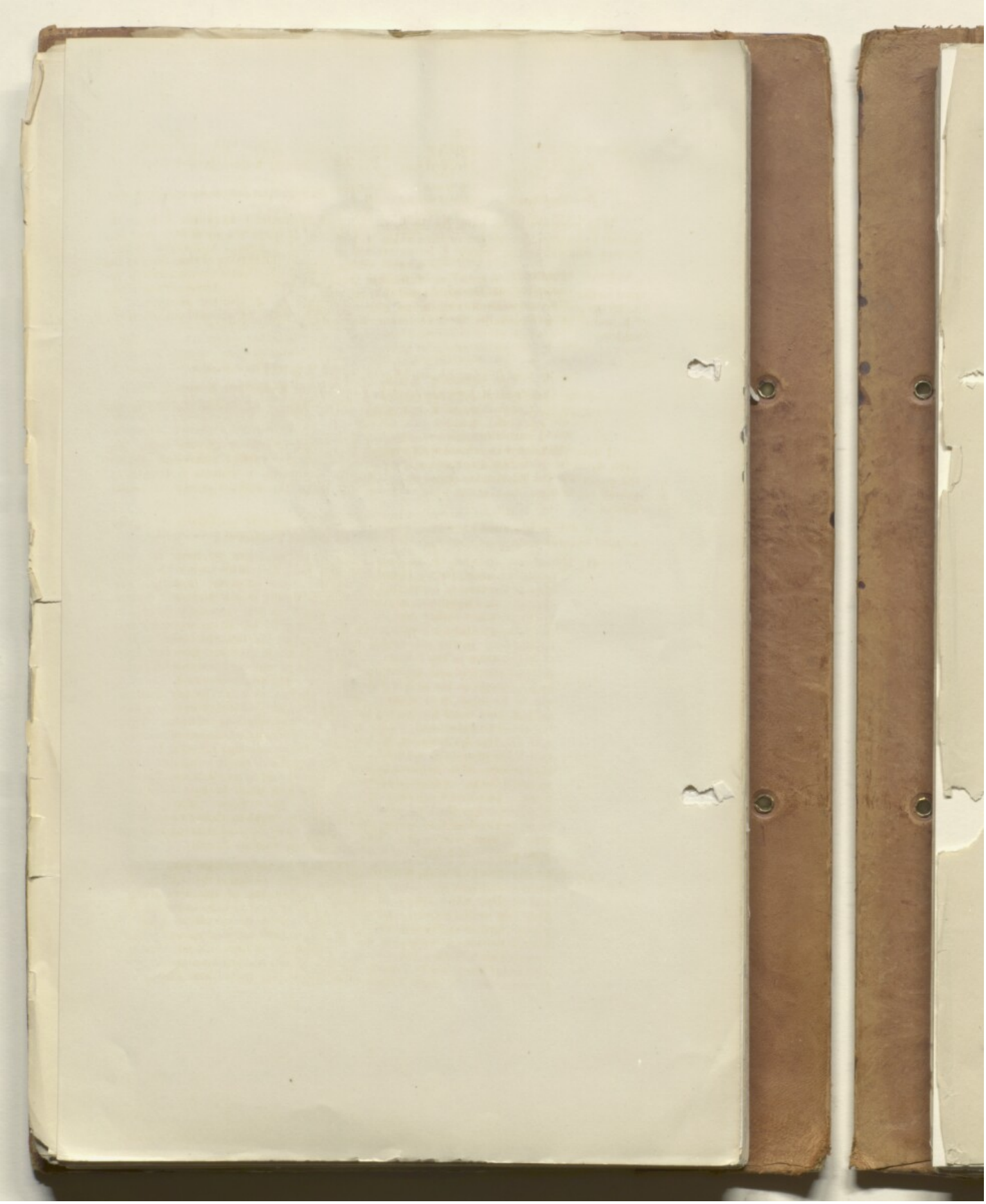


No. 2081 (Confidential), dated Bushire, the 31st July (received the 8th August) 1910.

From—Lieutenant-Colonel P. Z. Cox, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

page 160

With reference to my letter No. 1880, dated 10th July 1910, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of a further communication which I have received from the Political Agent, Koweit, giving further explanations of the attitude of the Turkish authorities in regard to the registration of Sheikh Mubarak's property. These explanations make the position clearer and lead to the conclusion that the recognition of "Koweiti" as a nationality is the solution which we should endeavour to achieve.

No. C.-45, dated 19th July 1910.

No C.-45 (Confidential), dated Koweit, the 19th July 1910.

From—Captain W. H. I. Shakespear, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit,

To—Lieutenant-Colonel P. Z. Cox, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

page 160

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of a copy of your letter No 1880, dated the 10th July 1910, and as it seems of importance to define clearly the grounds of the Turkish insistence on nationality certificates I venture to submit below some observations which I trust will make the various points clearer.

2. It will be convenient to separate what the Turkish officials are legally entitled to insist upon from what appears to be their present practice :—

(1) Hypotheses (i) and (ii) in your letter under reference are both partially correct, for the acquirer of land must declare his nationality at the time of registering the transfer of the property. For example, an Englishmen acquiring land in Basrah would declare his English nationality and the same would be duly entered in the "Tapu" Office registers when the transfer to his name was applied for. In any subsequent suit regarding his land the fact of registration in the "Tapu" Office books would give the Englishman the right and opportunity to defend or enforce his rights by appearance in the proper Turkish Court. He would, however, sue or be sued in a manner exactly similar to any Turkish subject, his Consul not having the right to assist him in any way, nor could he plead any rights under the Capitulations. Thus, with the transfer recorded, he becomes, for all matters concerning that land, practically a Turkish subject, though enjoying his own nationality. If he neglects to have the transfer to his own name recorded, he has no right to appear as a party at all in any Turkish Court. The courts will only recognize and hear those foreigners in whose names the land actually stands in the "Tapu" Office books, while Turks, of course, always have the right to appear by virtue of their nationality. This example will show what is the legal position of a foreigner acquiring land in Basrah.

(2) The authorities in Basrah, however, go beyond this legal position and insist on Turkish nationality certificates being produced by all and sundry, under threat of refusing registration of transfer. They rely on the natural ignorance and fear of legal technicalities prevailing among the Arabs and Persians who wish to acquire land in the Basrah Vilayat as well as their apprehension of losing property already paid for, without a possibility of legal remedy. This belief is sedulously fostered by the authorities amongst the ignorant, but no such preposterous demand is made from an

194

English, French or other subject who is certain to make enquiries and ascertain the legal position. So successful has the misrepresentation been that several wealthy and well educated men connected with Basrah, with whom I have discussed the matter, refused to believe that I could personally acquire land in Basrah and have the transfer registered in the "Tapu" Office in my own name without first becoming a Turkish subject myself.

3. In addition to the above, the authorities refuse to admit that Koweitis or indeed any Arabs at all have any separate nationality—they claim that all Arabs, *ipso facto*, are the Sultan's subjects and therefore Turks in nationality. Consequently, in pursuance of the new *regime's* efforts to consolidate the Turkish Empire, the opportunity is apparently being utilized in the case of the landed classes, (at all events in these outlying provinces), to force an outward and visible sign of Turkish nationality upon Arabs who hitherto have regarded themselves as more or less independent, though owning religious allegiance to the Sultan as the Khalif of Islam.

The matter is an intricate one which the general ignorance of even well-educated Arabs, combined with the Sheikh's tortuous methods, makes none the easier to elucidate, but I trust that I have given its bearings sufficiently clearly above to show that recognition by the Turkish authorities of "Koweiti" as a distinct nationality would go far towards a permanent settlement of the present as well as the larger question of the whole status of Koweit.

178.

Kuwait. 195

JUL 18 1911

(161)

No. 2078, dated Bushire, the 31st July 1910.

From—Lieutenant-Colonel P. Z. Cox, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

no copy

With reference to my letter No. 1887, dated 10th July 1910, on the subject of the subscription raised in Bahrain for the Turkish Navy, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the marginally cited letter which I have since received from the Political Agent, Kuwait, from which it appears that no attempt has been made to raise a similar fund in Kuwait.

No. C.-46, dated 20th July 1910.

below

No. C.-46, dated Kuwait, the 20th July 1910 (Confidential).

From—Captain W. H. I. Shakespear, I.A., Political Agent, Kuwait,

To—The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

page 188

With reference to a copy of the Bahrain Agency letter No. 465, dated the 2nd July 1910, regarding the collection of subscriptions at that port for the Turkish Navy, forwarded under your First Assistant's endorsement No. 1891, dated the 12th July 1910, I have the honour to report that no similar efforts have been made in Kuwait.

2. I have from time to time made enquiries on the point and am told that no requests have been made in Kuwait, nor has anything been subscribed here. The idea of a Government augmenting its naval resources by voluntary contributions like any mendicant charity provokes considerable mirth locally.

page 187

1758 F. D.—S E—64-74—Nov.

179. 196 (162)

CONFIDENTIAL No C.47 1910.

Political Agency,
Koweit.
20th July 1910.

From,

Captain W.H.I.Shakespear, I.A.,
Political Agent, KOWEIT.

To,

The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
BUSHIRE.

Sir,

page 139

With reference to my letter C-38 of the 15th June 1910, I have the honour to report further what I have been able to ascertain regarding Turkish interest in Koweit affairs.

2. In a conversation with the Sheikh, he maintained to me, as has already been reported, that the Wali of Basrah had offered him practically the governorship of Al Hassa, Katif, and Eastern Nejd. The Sheikh says he replied that he did not want the responsibility and found that his own affairs at Koweit occupied his time quite fully enough. From other fairly reliable sources I hear that it is not unlikely the Wali's offer was born in Mubarak's own imagination, for the idea was disseminated by the Sheikh himself after one of his visits to Basra. As my informant said, it requires all Mubarak's acumen and diplomacy to maintain his supremacy over the adjacent Bedouin tribes, and he certainly would not be able to undertake the maintenance of order in districts so distant as Hassa. If the Wali ever really made the offer, which my informant considered extremely doubtful, Mubarak has sufficient common-sense to realize the suggested task is beyond his strength. It is more probable that the report was put about solely to enhance his reputation and magnify his importance.

3. As regards the rumour that a Turkish military post

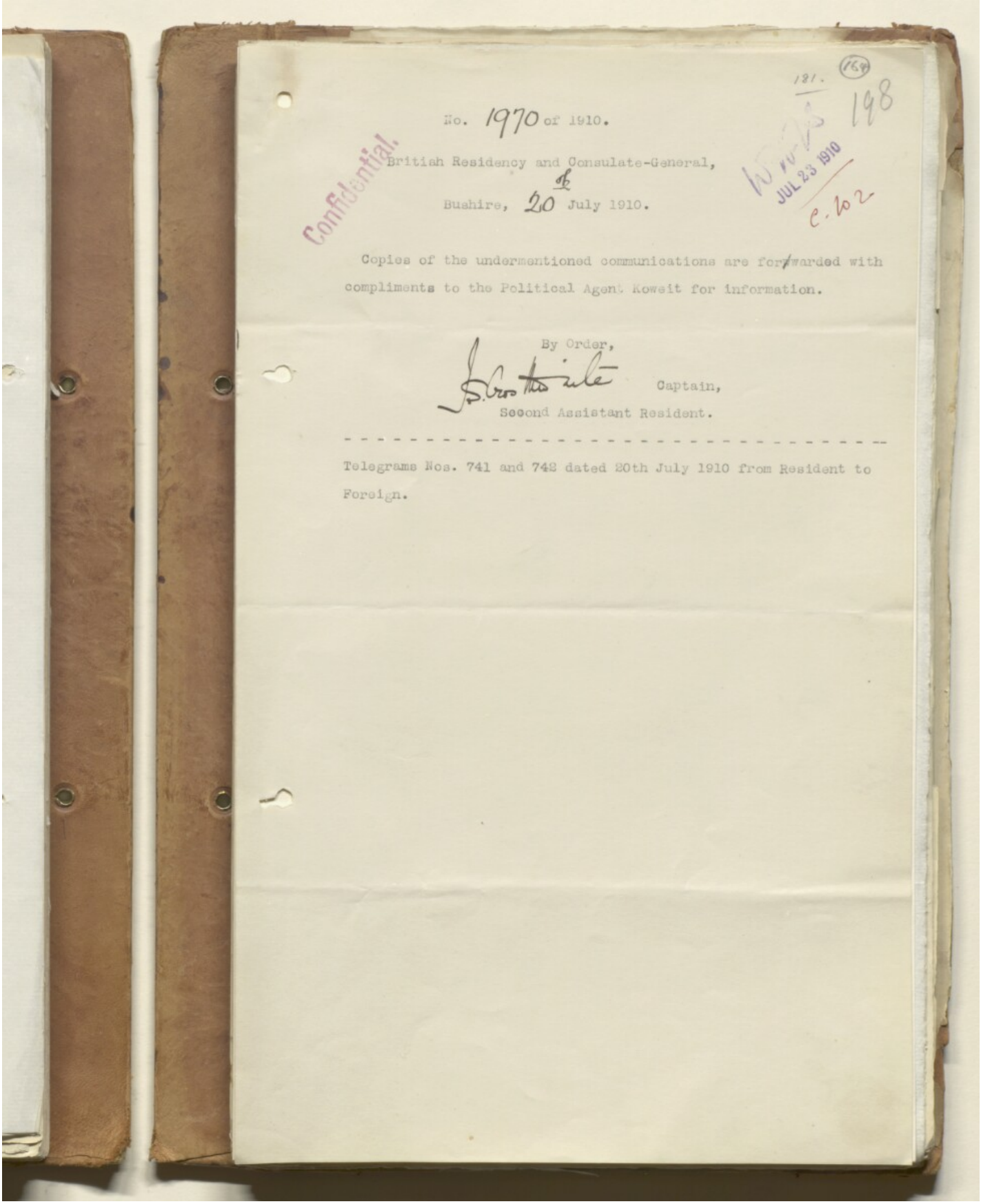
(163) 180. 197

post is to be established in Koweit, I am informed that the Wali may possibly have made the suggestion tentatively but that Mubarak would never submit to this affront on his own authority in Koweit. The Sheikh himself dismissed the idea with a shrug of the shoulders and the remark that the Wali's tongue was always running away with him.

3. I think both rumours may be dismissed as resting on too slight a foundation to be seriously con-sidered, as I hear that no one would oppose any ser-ious encroachment by the Turks on Koweit rights more strenuously than Mubarak , though he might make play with such rumours to enlist British support.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Captain,
Political Agent, Koweit .



Confidential.

No. 1970 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 20 July 1910.

Copies of the undermentioned communications are forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent Koweit for information.

By Order,

Captain,

Second Assistant Resident.

Telegrams Nos. 741 and 742 dated 20th July 1910 from Resident to Foreign.

182. (165) 199

Telegram. P.

To Foreign Simla.

No. 741.

Dated 20th July 1910.

page 175 page 160

Please refer to my letter of 10th July No. 1280. Since then Ahmed Pasha has returned from Constantinople to Busreh. Sheikh Mubarek in a letter which reached me yesterday through the Political Agent encloses some letters ~~xxxh~~ from friends in Busreh alleging that Ahmed Pasha in collusion with intriguers at Busreh intends to repudiate the sale of the Fadaghia property on the grounds among other pretexts, that an inadequate price was paid fot it. Information has also been received by Mubarek that Ahmed Pasha intends sending surveyors to the property to carry out measurements of the ground and that if interfered with Mubarek's cultivators he will receive assistance to eject them from Government. It is believed by the Sheikh that ~~the~~ it is the Wali who is putting up this intrigue with a view to coercing him in regard to the registration question. It is possible also that a certain clique in Busreh are devising this means of bleeding the Sheikh now that they see that he is in difficulties with the Wali.

Sheikh Mubarek reiterates his determination under our advice to continue to refuse to register either himself or his sons as Ottoman subjects, but he explains that the subversion of the sale will put him to very great pecuniary loss and urgently repeats his appeal for protection of his interests. In a simultaneous report the Political Agent considers that the Sheikh's apprehensions regarding the contemplated repudiation of the sale of the Fadaghia property are well founded and remarks that having regard to the recent bombardment of Zain and theturn the Fadaghia affair is now taking the Sheikh is now thoroughly alarmed. With reference to my telegram No. 610 dated 7th June. I shall be glad to be placed in a position to make Sheikh some reassuring communication.

page 132 Cox.

183.

200

(166)

Telegram P.

To Foreign Simla.

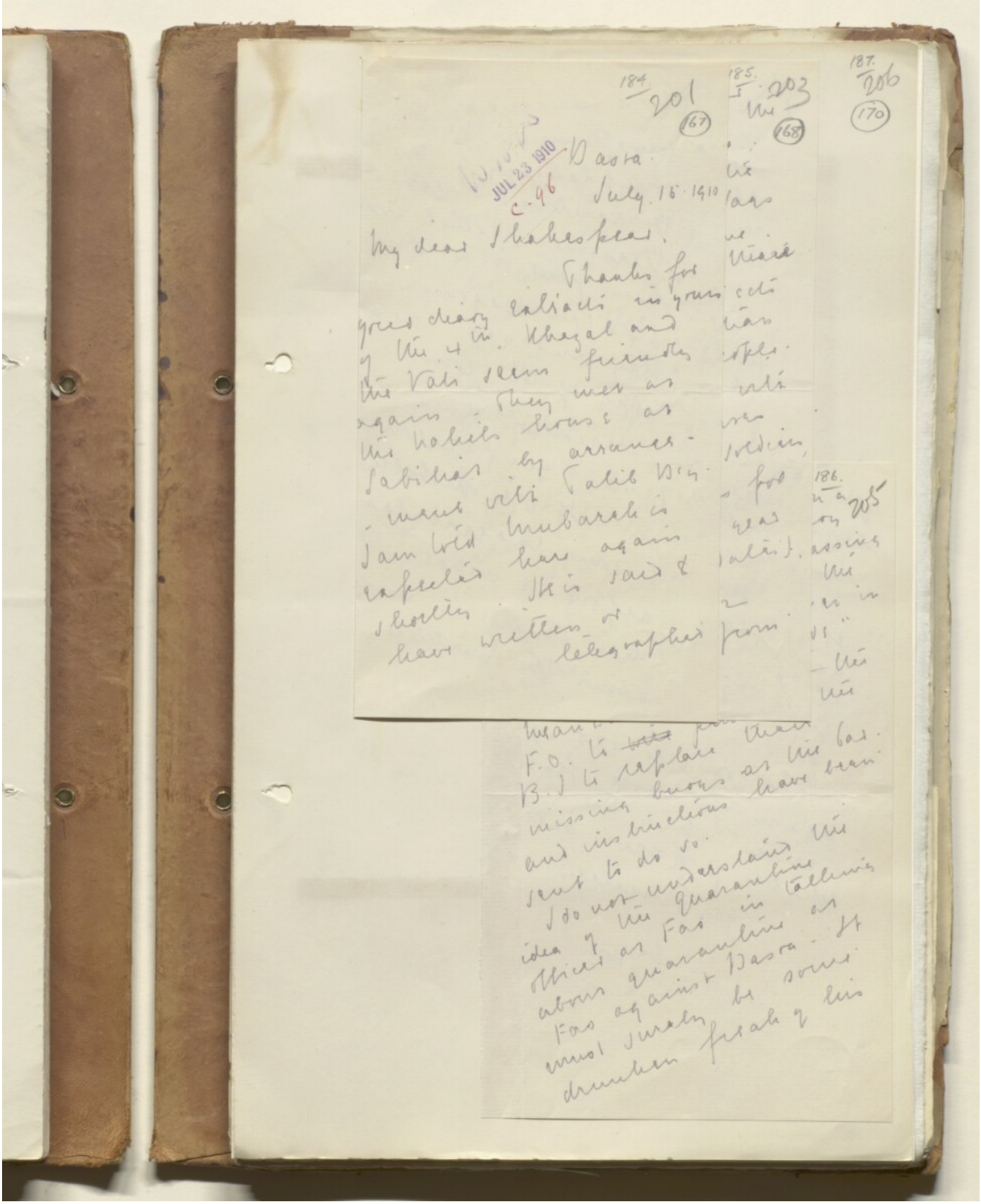
No. 742

Dated 20th July 1910.

In case of reference from Home, I inform you of following. On July 7th I received a telegram from Consul Busreh to the effect that according to local report some Arabs from Koweit had last month attacked and plundered some Zobair Arabs and that 4 of latter had been killed. Incident was said to be regarded gravely by the Busreh authorities and it was suggested that Mubarek should be advised if report was true to punish offenders and reassure Wali. Instructions in sense desired and purport of telegram were telegraphed to Political Agent Koweit. He now replies that Sheikh had already informed Wali that offenders were a party of Bedouins on their way to raid the Umtair; that they had been fired on outside Zobeir and had retaliated by seizing some donkeys but there had been no casualties. The Sheikh denied cognizance or responsibility for what had taken place but had used his influence to recover donkeys and restore them. Shakespear considers that offenders do come within category of Koweit arabs but that it is improbable that raid was deliberate or committed unprovoked. He adds that Sheikh realises so thoroughly how prejudicial it would be to his interests to anger the Wali needlessly now that it is extremely unlikely that he was in any way a party to the raid.

Sheikh Mubarek complains that same clique who are intriguing in Busreh in regard to Fadaghia question are using present occurrence to increase ill-feeling against Mubarek in the mind of the Wali.

Cox.



184. 201 (167)

185. 203 (168)

187. 206 (170)

Basra.
July 16. 1910

My dear Shakespear,

Thanks for your chatty letter from Khazal and the Vali seems friendly again. They met as his guests. Sabihas by arrange-ment with Talib Beg. I am told Mubarak is expected here again shortly. He is said to have written or telegraphed from

186. 205

F.O. to replace those missing buoys as the last and instructions have been sent to do so. I do not understand the idea of the quarantine officer at Fao in telling about quarantine at Fao against Basra. It must surely be some drunken freak of his

20v

something of the Vali's
complaining of the
quarantine which the
Turkish people at Koweit
had put on. I told my dragoman to
tell him that we
cope of the communi-
cation and the
send is going in
in. It will probably
be some exaggerated
report as usual. I
have heard no more
about the Turkish

20v

something of the Vali complaining of the quarantine which the British made him put on at Kowait. I told my dragoman to lay and get me a copy of the communication and it seems going in. It will probably be some exaggerated report as usual. I have heard no more about the Turkish

grievances at Zobair. The raiding way by the tribe of the Umrais. 185. 203

168

My Vali is optimistic about Muntafiq. I am he had a good time. Umrais and that there are no better subjects in the Empire than these Muntafiq people. The Sheikh heard with him over the graves of the slaughtered sheikhs, aged 8 for letters for 1325, + 1326. (last year) + this financial Salish. and gave up 12 mansus taken from

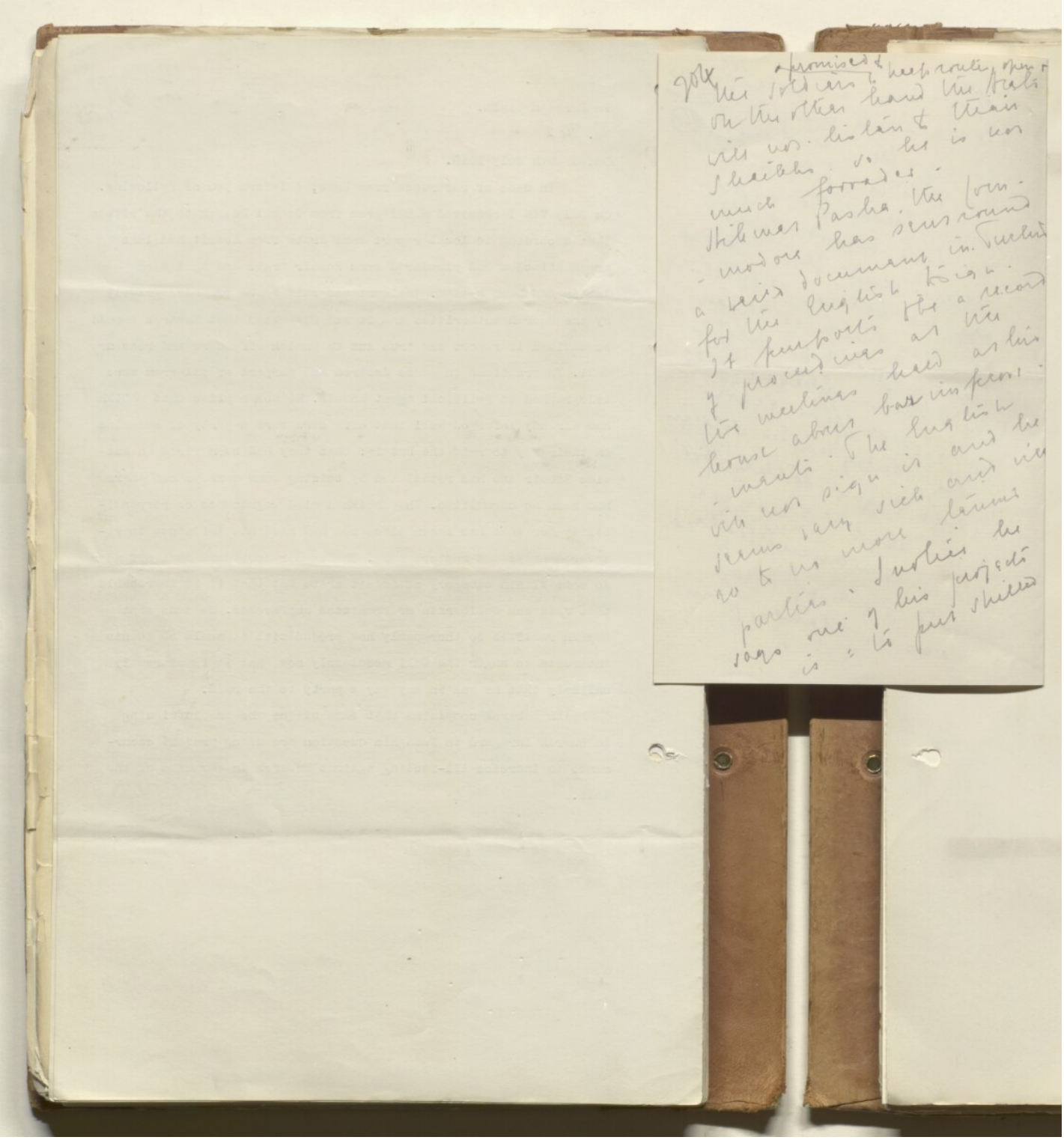
187. 206

170

186. 205

F.O. to ~~this~~ for B.) to replace the missing buoys as the last and instructions have been sent to do so.

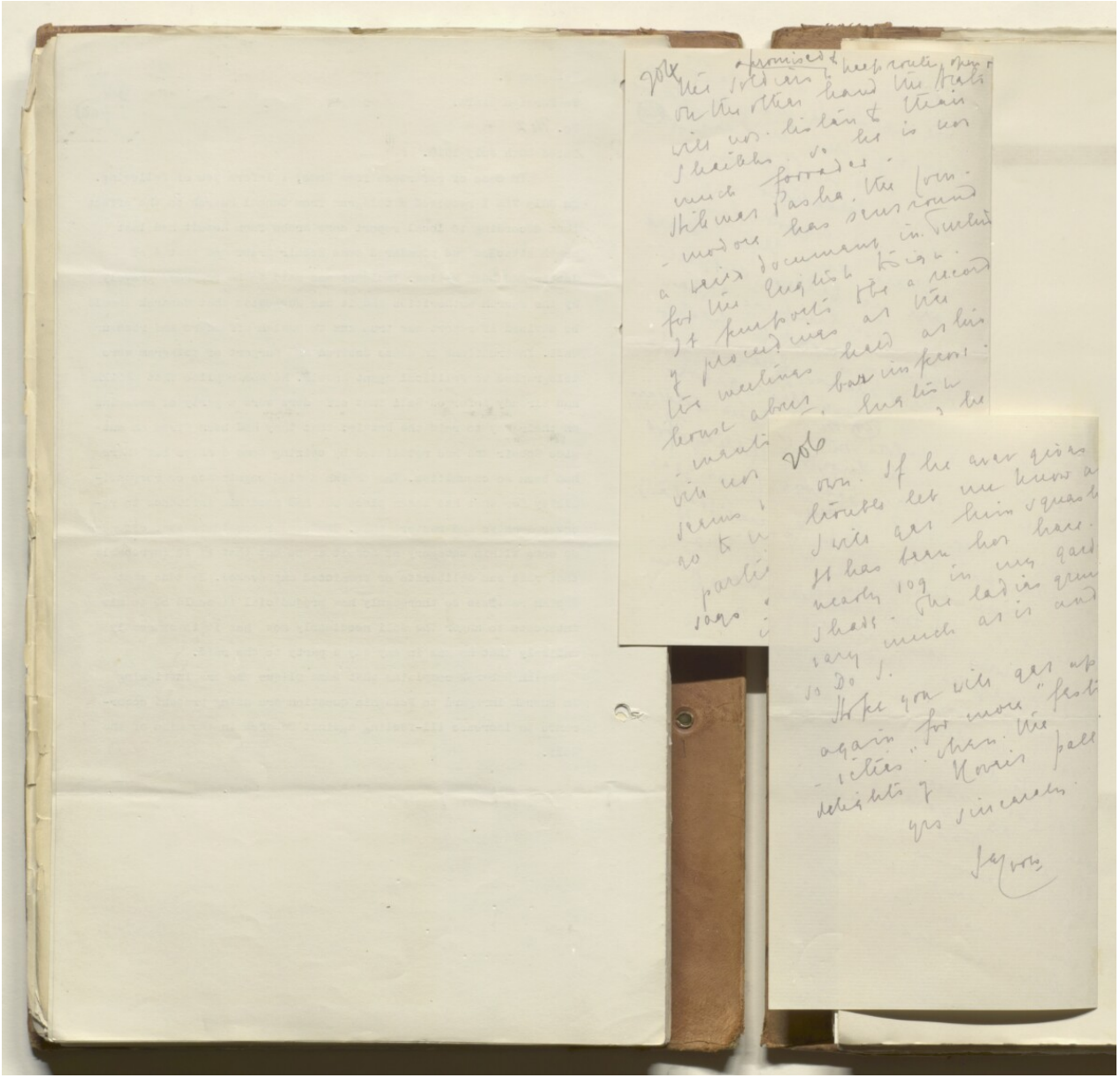
I do not understand the idea of the quarantine officer at Fao in telling about quarantine at Fao against Basra. It must surely be some drunken freak of his



187.
206
(170)

(169) 186.
205

" Officials and pilots in a
" large as the value buoy
" in order to inform passing
" ships of the state of the
" Shallow and the river in
" the inundation at low
Meanwhile I have got the
F.O. to ~~this~~ persuade the
B.I. to replace their
missing buoys as the last
and instructions have been
sent to do so.
I do not understand the
idea of the quarantine
officer at Fao in telling
about quarantine at
Fao against Basra. It
must surely be some
drunken freak of his



206

187.
206
(170)

206

Hope you will get up again for more "festivities" when the delights of Kowait fall

Yours sincerely

Fagrou

Bushire 20/7/10

JUL 23 1910

C.101

(171)

My dear Shakespear.

I send you the translations you wanted. Will you please explain to Shaikh that there was not time to get official reply translated to him in reply to his letter, but that, as you will see from copies of telegrams sent you, I am losing no time in keeping Govt. informed of developments, and his apprehensions & trust that his interests will

placed with archive copies

Acknowledged May 27 7/10.

208

not suffer. I think the Embassy must be moving or on the qui-vive, but it is unlikely that the Porte would be so ill-advised as to drive us to extremities which would give us no alternative but to intervene.

As regards the possibility of Ahmed Pasha trying to seize Mubarak's retainers or tenants I think you have given him sound advice which I endorse.

As to his visit to his gardens a fortnight hence, it is difficult to know quite what to say. It would obviously excite

190. (173) 210

(172) 189. 209

think the Embassy
ing or on the qui-
unlikely that the
be so ill advised
to extremities which
s no alternative but-

the possibility of
n trying to set
retainers or tenants
have ~~given~~ him
ce which I sen-

t to his gardens
ence, it is difficult
ite what to say.
bviously excite

the Turks resentment - I have
one of our new Jawas in atten-
dance on Shaikh Mubarak I
one could not suggest it.
I have wired (in the first in-
stance) to the Admiral to
inquire whether he has received
any requisition for the presence
of a ship this year as usual,
if so from what date.
If she is coming early in Sept-
ember as she usually does,
it might be possible again
say to get her expedited
to get Sh. Mubarak to delay
his visit a little. It is quite
possible though that Crow

Pages 189 & 190

acknowledged
May 27 7/10.

While saying that the Turks are now able to do the needful with the Mamaris. It will be a great mistake if we do not send a ship at all, because there will be nothing to prevent the Mamaris from plundering any place she pleases, on the excuse of hunting harboured pirates or something of that sort.
As soon as Vice Admiral's reply I will see what can be done. Meanwhile if we are taking any action at Constantinople, the position may improve. You will have the Lawrence with you on Saturday or Sunday probably Sunday.

Yours sincerely
P. Z. Cox

190. (173)
210

- the Turks are
to do the needful
marks. It will
istake if we do not
al all, because there
may be present the mas-
transgressing any mark,
n the excuse of
round pirates
of that sort.
el Admirals reply
r can be done. Mean-
ar taking any
stantinople, the Porte
. You will have the
Sun on Saturday or
ally Sunday.
ours sincerely
P. Z. Cox

Forwarded

acknowledged
May 27 7/16.

191. Koweit

(174)

211

No. 2164 (Confidential), dated Bushire, the 12th (received 22nd) August 1910.

From—Captain L. Birdwood, I.A., First Assistant Resident (in the absence of the Resident),

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

page 193

With reference to this office letter No. 2081, dated the 31st July 1910, I have the honour to forward for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the communication marginally noted, received from the Political Agent, Koweit, on the subject of Sheikh Mubarak's difficulties with the Vali of Basrah regarding the registration of his Fadaghia property.

Political Agent, Koweit, to Resident, No. C.-52, dated the 3rd August 1910.

No. C.-52 (Confidential), dated Koweit, the 3rd August 1910.

From—Captain W. H. I. Shakespear, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit,

To—The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

With reference to the correspondence, regarding Sheikh Mubarak's affairs on the Shatt-el-Arab and his relations with the Basrah Vali, Suliman Nathif Bey, ending with your Second Assistant's endorsement No. 1970, dated the 20th July 1910, I have the honour to give below some further information communicated to me by the Sheikh this morning.

page 198

2. The Sheikh said he had recently sent his Secretary Abdul Aziz bin Salim to Basrah at Ahmed Pasha az-Zuhair's request and on his return a day or two ago he related the following account of what passed during his visit. Abdul Aziz met Ahmad Pasha first and the latter after some preliminaries admitted that the Vali had instigated him to impugn Mubarak's title to the Fadaghia property. Ahmad Pasha had himself remonstrated with the Vali, pointing out the absurdity of repudiating the sale in the face of the sale-deeds held by Mubarak, which bore, besides his own signature, those of all the Basrah notables as well as that of the British Consul. He also objected to compromising his own good name in what from his own side would be a thoroughly bad case. However, the Vali offered to send the Turkish gun-boat "Marmaris" to eject Mubarak's men from the Fadaghia gardens by force if they should refuse a hint to leave quietly. In short, the whole of the story already detailed was confirmed categorically by Ahmad Pasha himself as having been suggested by the Vali who promised his utmost support. Ahmad Pasha apparently valued his own reputation too much to fall in with the Vali's suggestions, and told the Sheikh's Secretary he would have no hand in any such ignoble scheme. The Sheikh appears to be thoroughly satisfied with the assurance and remarked that he no longer feared Ahmad Pasha making any difficulties over the Fadaghia property.

3. Subsequently Abdul Aziz saw the Vali, who appears to have opened the interview with a general complaint against Mubarak for putting him in a false position with his superiors in the Turkish Government. On Abdul Aziz's enquiring how this could be, the Vali said he had telegraphed to Constantinople that Mubarak had agreed to the Fadaghia property being registered in the names of his four sons, who would all take out Turkish Nationality certificates and moreover that two of them would enter the Turkish Army! Abdul Aziz then appears to have taken the Vali rather severely to task pointing out that he, though himself a Turk and so not likely to minimize any of Mubarak's acknowledgments, was also the Sheikh's interpreter (for Turkish) and his Secretary and he never remembered Mubarak ever admitting either verbally or in writing anything which could by any stretch of imagination be construed into the substance of this telegram. The conversation was a long one of much to the same effect and seems to have been not without effect on the Vali, who as the Sheikh graphically described it "had no word and became completely silent."

Subsequently the Vali appears to have discussed with Abdul Aziz the agreement beween the Turkish and British Governments for the maintenance

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of the *status quo* in Koweit, alleging that the British Ambassador in Constantinople was always urging this plea upon the Turkish Government in any little matter which came up between Koweit and Basrah whilst the British representative in Koweit who must be aware of Mubarak's raid upon Zobeir made no effort to prevent or dissuade him from harrying Turkish subjects.

4. I am inclined to credit the truth of most of the above for the Sheikh was particularly frank and seemed considerably less anxious than he has been for some time. The conversation described in the last paragraph above would seem to point to some strictures having been passed on Suliman Nathif Bey by the Turkish Government, whether at the instance of His Majesty's Ambassador or not I am of course not in a position to conjecture. The Sheikh told me some little time ago that he had news from Baghdad that Suliman Nathif Bey was to be transferred from Basrah, being replaced by Fakhri Pasha from Aleppo, and he sincerely hoped the news would prove true A letter which I received from the Political Resident at Baghdad confirmed this rumour, though the latest news from Basrah states that the Vali has given the lie to the report which first reached Basrah in a Baghdad newspaper.

5. On the score of workable relations between the Sheikh and the Basrah authorities, it is to be hoped that Suliman Nathif Bey will be moved shortly; for, though his energy in making improvements in the Basrah roads and in apprehending vagabonds or bad characters may be laudable, his methods in dealing with powerful chiefs like the Sheikhs of Koweit and Mohammerah certainly appear to lack tact, *savoir faire* and appreciation of their position and will almost as certainly lead to trouble both for Turkish officials and ourselves, if he is permitted to pursue his present irresponsible course.

192.

213

(175)

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 2084 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 31st July 1910.

A copy of the undermentioned communication is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information, with reference to his letter No. C.47. page 196

By Order,

S. Crothwaite Captain,

Second Assistant Resident.

AUG 5- 1910

C.107

- -

Resident to Foreign. Letter No. 2083 dated 31st July 1910.

below

No. 2084 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 31st July 1910.

A copy of the undermentioned communication is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Kowait, for information, with reference to his letter No. C.47.

By Order,

S. Wratten Sutt

Captain,

Second Assistant Resident.

Resident to Foreign. Letter No. 2083 dated 31st July 1910.

Kuwait

193.

W 70-25 OCT 14 1910 214

(176)

No. 2083 (Confidential), dated Bushire, the 31st July (received 8th August) 1910.

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. Z. COX, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

page 139

I have the honour to refer to the report* from the Political Agent, Kuwait, dated 15th June 1910, in the course of which he mentioned, *inter alia*, current local reports to the effect that (i) the Wali of Basrah had offered to get Shaikh Mubarak a firman giving him control on behalf of the Porte over Nejd, Hasa, etc., and (ii) that Shaikh Mubarak had raised no objection to a proposal of the Wali to place a detachment of Turkish soldiers at Kuwait.

*Kuwait No. 36, forwarded with Residency letter No. 1719 of 26th June 1910.

2. Later news is to the effect that the Shaikh has alluded to these reports in conversation. He corroborates the first rumour but claims to have replied to the Wali that his own local affairs occupied his time fully and that he had no desire to extend his responsibilities.

With regard to the second report, Shaikh Mubarak expressed the view that there was nothing in it; he thought it was only the Wali letting his tongue run away with him as he is in the habit of doing.

3. I may mention that it is now reported from two or three different sources that the present Wali, Sulaiman Najif Bey, is about to be transferred to Mosul or Aleppo.

replaces original type destroyed

G. C. B. P. Simla.—No. C2989 F. D.—17-8-10—44.—H.C.S.L.

Confidential.

194.
215
(177)

No. 2176 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 14th August 1910.

A copy of the undermentioned communication is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information, with reference to this office endorsement No. 1970 of 20th July 1910.

page 198

AUG 20 1910
C-111

By Order,

S. Crosthwaite. Captain,
Second Assistant Resident.

- -

Telegram to His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, dated the 26th July 1910.

(Received with Foreign Department Endorsement No. 1653-E.A. dated the 3rd August 1910).

195. 216 (178)

Telegram. P.

From --- His Excellency the Viceroy, Simla.

To ----- His Majesty's Secretary of State for India, London.

no copy

Dated 26th July 1910.

Please see my telegram dated 13th June, and correspondence sent with Foreign Secretary's weekly letter 27-M, dated 14th July regarding Sheikh of Koweit's property at Fadaghia. On 20th July Colonel Cox telegraphed as follows. Begins. Please refer to my letter 1880 of the 10th instant. Ahmed Pasha el Zohair x x page 199 x x and would invite reference to my telegram of the 7th ultimo in this connection. Ends.

page 160

It is not clear whether the action of the Vali in demanding the registration of the Sheikh's sons as Turkish subjects is merely the strict carrying out of provisions of law of general application in the Basrah vilayet, which had become a dead letter under old regime, or is an arbitrary departure from ordinary usage, adopted in the hope of compelling Sheikh Mubarek to declare himself or his sons to be of Turkish nationality, as part of general policy of more active interference in Koweit affairs. The recent attitude of the Turkish authorities appears to have genuinely alarmed the Sheikh, and we should be glad if the real intentions of the Porte in regard to Sheikh's Fadaghia property can be ascertained, and if we can be authorised to make to him some reassuring communication.

Colonel Cox's letter 1880 has been sent with Foreign Secretary's weekly letter by last mail. → page 160

Last year the Sheikh of Mohammerah purchased some lands above Failiyeh in Turkish limits; the Vali has declined to permit registration and Sheikh Khazal is letting the matter drift till he sees what settlement is arrived at in Sheikh Mubarek's case.

196.
(179) 217

H.B.M. CONSULATE,
BASRA.

My dear Shakespear. Sir

August 20 1010

Many thanks for your letter of the 6th and the extracts from your diaries.

I do not think there is any truth in the rumour of Suleiman Nazif going to Aleppo. He does not to my knowledge want a change and as he is a great friend of Talaat Bey the Min. for F.A. I think it is unlikely he will be moved against his will. I heard the same rumour from Bagdad but have no confirmation of it he e. Perhaps the ~~wisdh~~- wish was father to the thought. Things seem quieter now but there are all sorts of rumours in the air. It is useless to put them in writing till confirmed When are we going to see you up again. We have had good and bad weather but on the whole it is not a bad summer. My party are off to India for the wedding in Sep by the Lawrence. They hope to reach Karachi between the 12 and 16 Sep. This is rather a gooseberry season as it is too hot for work and everybody is busy over dates. I hope you will get some pearls

Yours sincerely
Fay Low.

197.

218

(180)

Telegram P.

From Foreign Simla.

To Resident Bushire.

No. 482-S.

Dated 21st August 1910.

page 215

Please see this office endorsement dated 3rd August No. 1653-E.A. Enquiries are made by the Secretary of State as to how the registration question was solved in the case of other gardens which were owned at Fao by Sheikh Mubarek prior to the comparatively recent purchase now in question. Kindly furnish the information asked for.

CONFIDENTIAL

No. 2273 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 23? August 1910.

Forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, for favour of comment, with reference to the correspondence ending with this office No. 2176 dated 14th May 1910.

page 215

By Order,

S. Crosthwaite Captain,

Second Assistant Resident.

AUG 28 1910

C.119

198. (181)

Note:

Discussed Foreign's wire No 482-S. of 21st Aug with Resdt at Bushire.

Pointed out that ~~[illegible]~~ Sheikh's Fao and other estates are not in same category as the Fadhaghiya one.

An "ad interim" reply sent to Govt until P.A. can get full categorical details from the Sheikh of each of his properties. Names, situation, date of possession, how acquired, whether registered in Tapu office or not, & in whose names registered.

[illegible] 2.9.10.

199. (182)

220

COPY

Confidential No 716 of 1910.

From,

The Political Resident in Turkish Arabia

& H.B.M's Consul-General ,

Baghdad.

To,

The Political Agent , Kuwait

British Residency & Con

C ons-General

Baghdad , 18th August 1910.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward for your information some items of news relating to affairs in 'Iraq and Najd in t e ~~the~~ received in the Baghdad Residency.

I have etc,

J.G. LORIMER.

Political Resident etc,

Recd 8/9/10

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200. 221 (183)

Confidential.

The present state of relations between the Wali of Basrah and the Shaikh of Muhammarah, the friction between the Basrah Wilayat and the Shaikh of Kuwait over some raids in the neighbourhood of Zubair, a scheme by Commodore Hikmet Bey for the buoying, lighting and dredging of the bar of the Shatt-al-'Arab and the erection of a lighthouse at Fao by the Turkish Government, and the reoccupation of Zakhurniyah Island near Bahrain by the Turks have no doubt been fully reported on to the Government of India and H.B.M's Ambassador at Cons--tantinople by the local officers serving under their orders.

The Turkish National Fête, which fell on the 23rd July, was made the occasion of a military review at Baghdad; it was held on the plains near the new standing camp an hour before sunset. There were a tent and special enclosure for European and other guests whom the Wali invited to be present.

The troops on parade numbered about 3000, of whom some 2400, including Gendarmerie, were infantry. The movements, considering that the men had been only about two months under proper training, were very creditably executed. Instantaneous photographs of the march past have been sent to the Chief of the General Staff's Division (M.O.5), Simla, and to the British Military Attaché at Constantinople; but the appearance of the troops on parade was considerably better than might be judged from the photographs. The infantry, on whom the German "Parade Schritt" is evidently being inculcated with the usual ludi--crous results, passed first; they were followed by two field batteries, a battery of Q.F. guns, a machine gun section, and a cavalry regiment, in the order named.

Everything had been done to simplify and facilitate the movements. No body passed the saluting base on a front of more than 15 men; and the artillery and cavalry did not move out of a walk. The composition of the parade was fictitious, the two field batteries of 6 guns passing as three of 4 guns each, and

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Everything had been done to simplify and facilitate the movements. No body passed the saluting base on a front of more than 16 men; and the artillery and cavalry did not move out of a walk. The composition of the parade was fictitious, the two field batteries of 6 guns passing as three of 4 guns each, and

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Confidential.

and the cavalry "regiment", nominally the 31st, consisting partly of drafts from the 35th and 36th. The infantry were professedly the 41st, 42nd, and 43rd of the line, and the Markaz (or Headquarters) battalion of the Gendarmerie; but here too, I suspect, there was considerable juggling with units. If the infantry were really what they purported to be,—three regi--ments and a battalion, besides details such as Ihtiyat, Gen--darmerie Training School, etc,,—they must have been further below strength than is usual even here.

The Baghdad Army Corps have evidently taken the Native Army of British India as their model in matters of uniform and equipment. All the troops were clad in khaki, generally drill; and most of them wore puttis. Their ammunition boots were in some cases of the familiar British Indian pattern. Indeed but for the headdress,—an Arab Kerchief dyed khaki,—the parade might have been, as regards uniform, one of Indian troops; and the Staff are evidently dissatisfied with the local Kafiyah, as they have since obtained from me the services of a sepoy to show them how the Indian Pagri is tied and worn. The officers of some units wore white kerchiefs, which would be a most unpractical and dangerous distinction on active service.

The troops reviewed were mostly, I fancy, mongrel townsmen and Arab peasants. Their appearance was hard and sturdy, but rather coarse-bred. They gave me the impression of resembling the Khedive's Fallah troops, though of shorter stature, and I should expect them to prove obedient, possessed of physical strength and endurance, and possibly capable of a smart drill. It would not surprise me if they were found to be deficient in combativeness. Some of the men were evidently much dis--tressed, but they had been kept under arms in the sun for a long time before the parade began; and the temperature in the shade on this afternoon was at one time over 115 Fahrenheit.

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Confidential.

and the cavalry "regular", nominally the 3rd, consisting partly of drafts from the 38th and 39th. The infantry were professedly the 41st, 42nd, and 43rd of the line, and the Marines (or Headquarters) battalion of the Gendarmerie; but here too, I suspect, there was considerable juggling with units. If the infantry were really what they purported to be,—three regi-
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It was observed at this review that a number of mud barracks, similar to the lines of native troops in India, had already been constructed to replace the tents of which the standing camp at present consists. These erections were still unroofed, but quantities of poles and rafters are now being obtained by public contribution. The Wali, it appears, has made an assessment of all well-to-do Turkish subjects for the purpose; and the father of the Honorary Dragoman of the American Consulate, M. Kouyoumidjian, who had been put down in Nazim Pasha's list for £.T.6 and offered £.T.4 only, found himself in the end obliged to pay £.T.10 in order to avoid dis-agreeable consequences.

Non-Muhammadan recruits are still being called up in the Musal Wilayat. About the end of June Dawudiyah, 'Aqrah and Dahuk supplied a few Christians, and Zakho, 'Aqrah and Amadiyah about a score of Jewish recruits. Muhammadan recruits also continue to be received from abroad for the regiments of the 4th Army Corps now serving in the 6th Ordu. On the 18th of June 60 more recruits for the 31st and 32nd Regiments arrived at Musal from Diyarbakr.

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Confidential.

The proceedings were watched by a crowd of some thousand Baghdadis, who had mostly walked two or three miles in blazing heat to be present. Carriages were being hired at a Lirah for the occasion. The sight of the troops seemed to evoke much enthusiasm, and some of them were loudly and spontaneously applauded as they swung past. One could feel that here at last was something in which Turk and 'Iraqi might take a common pride; and an indistinct vision of Turkey unified by military patriotism at times flitted before the mind.

On the whole the display was highly creditable to the military administration, bearing witness as it did to the establishment at least of authority and discipline.

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The proceedings were watched by a crowd of some thousand Baghdadis, who had nearly walked two or three miles in blazing heat to be present. Carriages were being hired at a Liras for the occasion. The sight of the troops seemed to evoke much enthusiasm, and some of them were loudly and spontaneously applauded as they swung past. One could feel that here at last was something in which Turk and 'Iraqi might take a common pride; and an indefinite vision of Turkey unified by military patriotism at times flitted before the mind.

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Confidential.

The Christian and Jewish Ihtiyat of Baghdad were dis--missed to their homes after the review of the 23rd July. It appears to be intended that the regular garrison at out-sta--tions which are centres for calling up the Ihtiyat shall be replaced in future by the Ihtiyat themselves. These reservists will be summoned in batches for a period of 45 days' training per annum, each, thus supplying a permanent Ihtiyat garrison at each Ihtiyat centre. The regular troops set free will be added to the striking force in process of organisation at Baghdad.

In the Kirkuk military district the 3rd battalion of the 31st Regiment, except two companies, and an entire battery of mountain artillery were withdrawn, after the middle of June, from 'Agrah to Musal. All the embodied Radif battalions serving in the Musal Wilayat have now been disbanded in the same manner as those in the Baghdad Wilayat. These measures confirm the idea that a settlement with the Shaikh of Baraizan is impending; but it possible that a military post may be retained at the village of Baraizan.

A number of new military appointments are announced. Lt.Col.Fahim Bey has been placed in command of the 31st (Baghdad) Infantry Brigade, and the following have obtained command of the regiments noted against their names:-

Lt.Col.Nasib Bey.....31st Cavalry Regimet.
Major Hasan Bey.....32nd Do
Major Ramzi Bey.....34th Do
Lt.Co.Yusuf Bey.....42nd Infantry Regiment.
Lt.Col.Raif Bey.....43rd Do
Lt.Col.Fuad Bey.....44th Do

All the above, with the exception of Major Hasan Bey who is an ex-President of the Committee of Union & Progress at Baghdad, are officers whom Nazim Pasha brought with him from Europe.

Shamil Pasha, who was till lately Commandant of the troops at

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will be summoned in batches for a period of 45 days' training
per annum, each, thus supplying a permanent Liwayat garrison
at each Liwayat centre. The regular troops set free will be
added to the striking force in process of organisation at
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In the Kirkuk military district the 3rd battalion of
the 21st Regiment, except two companies, and an entire battery
of mountain artillery were withdrawn, after the middle of
June, from 'Aqrah to Musul. All the embodied Redif battalions
serving in the Musul Wilayat have now been disbanded in the
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is impending; but it possible that a military post may be
retained at the village of Barzan.

A number of new military appointments are announced.
Lt.Col.Rashid Bey has been placed in command of the 21st
(Baghdad) Infantry Brigade, and the following have obtained
command of the regiments noted against their names:-

Lt.Col.Hadi Bey.....21st Cavalry Regiment.
Major Hasan Bey.....23rd Do
Major Kamal Bey.....24th Do
Lt.Co.Yusuf Bey.....42nd Infantry Regiment.
Lt.Col.Hafiz Bey.....42rd Do
Lt.Col.Fuad Bey.....44th Do

All the above, with the exception of Major Hasan Bey who is an
ex-President of the Committee of Union & Progress at Baghdad,
are officers whom Nuri Pasha brought with him from Europe.

Shawki Pasha, who was till lately Commandant of the troops
at

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at Basrah, has been placed in charge of the whole Radif of the 21st (Baghdad) Division; and the 41st Brigade of Radif, comprising half the Radif of the said Division, has gone to Colonel 'Abdul Jabbar Bey.

Hasan Riza Bey, Chief of the Staff, has now actually taken over the 11th (Baghdad) Division of Nidham, in addition to his other duties. He replaces Muhammad 'Ali Pasha, who has nominally received the 53rd Cavalry Regiment instead, but is now selling off his property and will leave for Constantinople shortly.

Muhammad Fazil Pasha's last resignation, tendered on the score of illness (viz. deafness and an affection of the chest), has been accepted; but I am bound to say that I never saw a man of his years look in better general health than he now does. His son, Daud Bey, a cavalry officer and aide-de-Camp to the present and to the late Wali, has also been permitted to resign on the ground of being an only son and his father's sole assistant in the management of his property, one of the principal items of which is a valuable stud of mares. Father and son have now retired from their town house at Baghdad, which is threatened by the new street, to their estate of Dawar down the Tigris. I have now ascertained that Muhammad Pasha is an actual nephew of the famous Shamil of Caucasian celebrity.

A number of the older military officers of the 6th Ordu are being reduced to despair by the present changes; but few of them can afford to forfeit their pensions by resigning before the completion of their qualifying service.

On the 16th of July 39 pupils of the I'dadiyah 'Askari (Military School) at Baghdad left for Constantinople to join the College for Cadets there. Their average age was 17 to 18 years.

It appears that Nuri Bey's practical connection with the Gendarmerie has not ceased, but Nazim Pasha still seems to treat him with disfavour.

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Confidential.

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Confidential.

A draft of 36 Gendarmerie under an officer has been sent from Baghdad to reinforce the Gendarmerie battalion at Karba--la, at present only about 200 strong. It is stated that the battalion will gradually be raised to a strength of 700 rifles and that it will hereafter, with the Ihtiyat under training there, constitute the whole garrison of Karbala.

Nazim Pasha's inner circle consists of Colonel Hasan Riza Bey, Colonel Jawad Bey, Lt. Col. 'Ali Kamal Bey, and Major Saib Bey; to whom may perhaps be added Serop Effendi. These appear to be his real confidential advisers upon all matters: in private life his relations are almost exclusively with them and the four first-named attend him everywhere.

Eram Bey, the Political Secretary of the Wilayat, does not appear to be included in this coterie. With reference to him I now learn that his father, Artin Effendi, was at one time employed in the Telegraph Department, and afterwards became Dragoman of the Wilayat; that Artin's brother, Rubain Effendi, was Dragoman of the Wilayat in the time of Midhat Pasha; and that a sister of Rubain Effendi's wife married Captain Felix Jones of the Indian Navy, who commanded the British stationnaire at Baghdad 50 or 60 years ago and afterwards became Political Resident in the Persian Gulf. Mrs Felix Jones was the daughter of an Armenian contractor from Constantinople, Anton Stambouli, who settled at Baghdad. These details are interesting but of no practical importance.

On the 26th of July 'Ali Kamal Bey, Saib Bey, and 'Ali Najib Bey left Baghdad for Karbala, Kufah and Najaf on a tour of inspection. On the morning of the 29th of July 'Ali Kamal Bey and Saib Bey returned from Najaf to Karbala; and after only an hour's rest they set out again for Tawarij, whence they returned to Karbala in the evening. This extraordinary display of energy at a most unfavourable time of the year has caused much speculation in the old-world places through which their route lay.

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Hasan Bey, the Political Secretary of the Wilayet, does not appear to be included in this coterie. With reference to him I now learn that his father, Arif Irfandi, was at one time employed in the Telegraph Department, and afterwards became Director of the Wilayet; that Arif's brother, Subhi Irfandi, was Director of the Wilayet in the time of Midhat Pasha; and that a sister of Subhi Irfandi's wife married Captain Felix Jones of the Indian Navy, who commanded the British gunboats at Baghdad 50 or 60 years ago and afterwards became Political Resident in the Persian Gulf. Mrs Felix Jones was the daughter of an Armenian contractor from Constantinople, Anton Stanbouli, who settled at Baghdad. These details are interesting but of no practical importance.

On the 30th of July 'Ali Kamal Bey, Salih Bey, and 'Ali Salih Bey left Baghdad for Karbala, Hillah and Najaf on a tour of inspection. On the morning of the 29th of July 'Ali Kamal Bey and Salih Bey returned from Najaf to Karbala; and after only an hour's rest they set out again for Tawairij, whence they returned to Karbala in the evening. This extraordinary display of energy at a most unfavourable time of the year has caused much speculation in the old-world places through which their route lay.

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Confidential.

A mixed military and civil commission has been formed to recommend changes in the territorial organisation of the Radif by battalion centres, and, concurrently to report on the suitability of the existing civil administrative divisions (Qadhas and Nahiyahs) of the Baghdad Wilayat. The military members are Lt.Col. Nasim Bey and Major Yunis Effendi of the Staff, and Salim Effendi, a Captain of Infantry. The civil members are 'Isa Effendi (Jamilzadah), 'Abdur Rahman Pasha (Vachachizadah), and 'Abdur Rahman Pasha (Haidarizadah), -all prominent citizens of Baghdad.

The Turkish National Fête was celebrated at Baghdad with much éclat on the 23rd of July.

In the early morning there were sports for the cavalry and an inspection of the Gendarmerie Training School, both near the North Gate. The Cavalry events included a nine-mile race by selected half troops on the road from Ba'qubah, also swimming competitions in the river Tigris for mounted and unmounted men. At the Gendarmerie inspection recruits were sworn in in the presence of the Wali, and demonstrations of practical work (surrounding and capturing armed robbers etc.) were given. I noticed that a few Christian and Jewish recruits were sworn in by their own priests on their own scriptures, and that their part of the ceremony was introduced in the middle of the proceedings, apparently in order that they might not come either before or after the Muhammadans. The American Consul (Mr. Simpich) and myself were the only two European spectators of these early functions.

The Wali's official reception at the Sarai was held between 11 o'clock and 12 noon by European time. The consular body were at first informed that plain clothes would be the order of the day: but at the last moment it was announced that under instructions from Constantinople, full uinform must be worn. Nazim Pasha being more regardful of his comfort than

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of his appearance, I imagine that the original plan was his own. Captain Pinnis, R.I.M, commanding the R.I.M.S. "Comet", accompanied me to the reception.

In the evening the military review took place which has already been described.

At nightfall the town was illuminated, and the effect upon the river front was really very fine. The British Residency was lit up with some hundreds of lamps. The "Comet" dressed ship in the morning and remained decorated all day.

After dark an al fresco entertainment again took place in the garden of 'Abdul Qadir (Khadairi).

Effectual means have been taken to prevent the dis--missed officials belonging to the Committee of Union and Progress at Baghdad from proceeding to Constantinople to urge their grievances against Nazim Pasha. I understand that two criminal cases have been brought against Murad Bey in the courts; that Suraiyah Bey has been ordered not to leave Baghdad until his successor arrives; and that Rauf Chadurji has been threatened through his father, Rif'at Chadurji Effendi, who is a landowner of the Wilayat.

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Further information about the Baghdad branch of the Committee of Union and Progress is now available.

An election held soon after the beginning of July re--sulted in the elevation of 'Abdul Qadir (Khadhairi) to the Presidentship of the "First Club". The "Second Club" is not at Baghdad but at Kadhimain. The other principal officials of the First Club are:-

Vice-President.....Ya'qub Pasha 'Isai, brother of Yusuf 'Isai.

Secretary.....Ya'qub Effendi, a Christian lawyer, brother--in-law of Mr. Rosario, Head Clerk of this Residency.

Treasurer.....A. Apiqian, an Armenian merchant, related to Eram Bey, the Political Secretary of the Wilayat.

Librarian.....Sikandar 'Aziz, a Christian, at one time Dragoman of the Wilayat and lately Drago--man to Mr. Medlicott, the representative of Sir William Willcocks.

Member of Committee. Mikail Yaghchi, an employé of the American liquorice firm of Messrs McAndrews & Forbes Coy, and brother-in-law of M. Asfar the late Consul for Spain.

Do Haji Judi, Chalabi.

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The First Club have lately transferred their place of meeting from the Law Schools to what was, in the time of the old British Residency, the Residency Surgeon's house. This building was until lately occupied as a Club by the Naqib of Baghdad, a Jamilzadah, and various other reputed reactionaries.

News of the "plot" against the present Government of Turkey recently "discovered" at Constantinople was first com--municated to me by Kram Bey, Political Secretary, on the 26th of July. He said that his information was derived from Four--nier's telegrams, which the Wali now daily receives from Constantinople. Kram Bey said that the prime mover in the plot was Sharif Pasha, an opponent of the Committee of Union and Progress, who edits a monthly newspaper called the "Mechereutiette" at Paris. I may note that two copies of this journal were recently delivered to me here through the Turk--ish Post Office, from which it would appear that the Postal Department, at any rate, is not entirely under the control of the Committee, for no precautions had been taken to conceal the title of the paper. According to Kram Bey there is no real difference between Sharif Pasha's party and that of the Committee in principle, but each wishes to be in power and to exclude the other, and their personal interests are thus irreconcileable.

The law which prohibits the practice of medicine in Turkey by persons not possessing a diploma of the Constanti--nople Faculty has suddenly been applied at Karbala in all its rigour. The agent of this revolutionary change is the Mutasarrif, but he appears to have taken action most reluctant--ly at the instance of one Rafi' Effendi, a Sanitary Inspector, lately sent by Nazim Pasha from Baghdad. The population of Karbala is about 60,000 souls and the number of persons need--ing medical attendance every day is estimated at 300. In consequence of the enforcement of the law the whole town has suddenly become dependent for medical aid upon a single

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The law which prohibits the practice of medicine in Turkey by persons not possessing a diploma of the Constantinople Faculty has suddenly been applied at Karbala in all its rigour. The agent of this revolutionary change is the Muhassarif,but he appears to have taken action most reluctantly at the instance of one Hafi' Efendi,a Sanitary Inspector lately sent by Nazim Pasha from Baghdad. The population of Karbala is about 60,000 souls and the number of persons needing medical attendance every day is estimated at 800. In consequence of the enforcement of the law the whole town has suddenly become dependent for medical aid upon a single licensed

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Confidential.

licensed practitioner,—the Sanitary Inspector himself,—and a number of native physicians, chiefly Persians and Indians, by whom the sick were hitherto for the most part attended, have lost their means of livelihood. The Inspector is of course placed in a position to charge any fee that he pleases, and his usual honorarium is reported to be much higher than that of the Hakims, his predecessors, and equally beyond the means of the generality of the inhabitants of Karbala. In order, it is supposed to ensure the enforcement of the law, the headmen of wards have been ordered to report all cases of sickness to the authorities; and burials without a death certificate from the Inspector have been prohibited. There is much dissatis--faction in the town; some think that to insist on the medical examination of the female dead may in the end lead to riots. Telegrams on the subject were sent to the Wali of Baghdad by Saiyid Muhammad (Kashi), Sayid Isma'il (Sadr), and Saiyid Muhammad Baqir (Tabatabayi), of whom the first and the last receive allowances as Mujtahids under the Oudh Bequest. Saiyid Muhammad Kashi seems to have hinted at the possibility of disturbances; and Nazim Pasha, who first ordered him to be informed that the law of the country could not be changed, has now, after further enquiry, directed him to be prosecuted on the charge of disseminating a false and alarming report.

The question of unlicensed parctitioners seem likely to come up in a serious shape at Baghdad before long; and I have accordingly reported on the subject in anticipation to H.B.M's Ambassador at Constantinople, and sent a copy of my despatch to the Government of India.

Arabic petitions are again being accepted at the Sarai, and official correspondence with the tribes conducted, as previously, in Arabic. The substitution of Turkish was found impossible in practice.

Confidential.

Licensed practitioner,—the Sanitary Inspector himself,—and a number of native physicians, chiefly Persians and Indians, by whom the sick were hitherto for the most part attended, have lost their means of livelihood. The Inspector is of course placed in a position to charge any fee that he pleases, and his usual honorarium is reported to be much higher than that of the Hakims, his predecessors, and equally beyond the means of the generality of the inhabitants of Karbala. In order, it is supposed to ensure the enforcement of the law, the headmen of wards have been ordered to report all cases of sickness to the authorities; and burials without a death certificate from the Inspector have been prohibited. There is much dissatisfaction in the town; some think that to insist on the medical examination of the female dead may in the end lead to riots.

Telegrams on the subject were sent to the Wali of Baghdad by Sayid Muhammed (Kazim), Sayid Imam'ul (Sadr), and Sayid Muhammed Hadi (Tabatabai), of whom the first and the last receive allowances as Mujtahids under the Orfi Regime. Sayid Muhammed Kazim seems to have hinted at the possibility of disturbances; and Nazim Pasha, who first ordered his to be informed that the law of the country could not be changed, has now, after further enquiry, directed his to be prosecuted on the charge of disseminating a false and alarming report.

The question of unlicensed practitioners seem likely to come up in a serious shape at Baghdad before long; and I have accordingly reported on the subject in anticipation to H.M.'s Ambassador at Constantinople, and sent a copy of my despatch to the Government of India.

Arabic petitions are again being accepted at the Sarai, and official correspondence with the tribes conducted, as previously, in Arabic. The substitution of Turkish was found impossible in practice.

211.

232

194

On the 13th of July the Euphrates & Tigris Steam Navi--gation Company's new steamer "Julnar" arrived at Baghdad with the British mails from Basrah. She is a novelty on the Tigris, having twin screws instead of the hitherto universal paddles; her speed appears to be greater than that of any of the Turkish boats; and her cargo-carrying capacity is estimat--ed by the Director of the Nahriyah line at 500 tons, or double that of his own largest steamer the "Baghdad". She has some defects which are probably remediable, in particular an extreme--ly high temerature in the stokehole.

The "Julnar" replaces the "Blosse Lynch", which I under--stand the Wali of Basrah has officially intimated will not be allowed by the Turkish Government, in any circumstances, to navigate either the Tigris or the Euphrates again. In this way the Company are prevented from possessing a reserve steamer for use above Qurnah.

At the beginning of July one Jawad-bin-Muhammad, who produced evidence of being a British subject and of having been

Confidential.

been sent to purchase mules for the Government of India, reported himself at this Consulate-General. Having enquired of the Political Secretary to the Wilayat, and been informed by him privately that there was "no prohibition" on the exportation of mules, I allowed Jawwad to proceed on his journey. After his departure I received to my surprise, and official letter from the Secretary, in which he stated for the first time that mules proposed to be exported must be shown to a Military Committee, and that this Committee had power to take them over itself, on payment, for the Turkish Army. Against this apparent after-thought, if Jawwad returns viâ Baghdad, it may be necessary to protest; but I understood from him that he would most probably make his purchases in Persia and ship his animals from a Persian port. My knowledge that the Turks were finding difficulty in providing their 6th Army Corps with remounts and transport was the cause of my reference to the Political Secretary, and it seems probable that the latter is to blame for the mistake which has occurred.

On the 18th of July the Euphrates & Tigris Steam Navi-
-gation Company's new steamer "Nihar" arrived at Baghdad
with the British mails from Basrah. She is a novelty on the
Tigris, having twin screws instead of the hitherto universal
paddles; her speed appears to be greater than that of any of
the Turkish boats; and her cargo-carrying capacity is estimat-
-ed by the Director of the Hakiyah line at 800 tons, or double
that of his own largest steamer the "Baghdad". She has some
defects which are probably remediable, in particular an extreme
-ly high temperature in the stokehole.

The "Nihar" replaces the "Shiraz Lynch", which I under-
-stand the Wali of Basrah has officially intimated will not
be allowed by the Turkish Government, in any circumstances, to
navigate either the Tigris or the Euphrates again. In this
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Confidential.

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to a Military Committee, and that this Committee had power to
take them over itself, on payment, for the Turkish Army. Against
this apparent after-thought, if Jawad returns via Baghdad, it
may be necessary to protest; but I understand from him that
he would most probably make his purchases in Persia and ship
his animals from a Persian port. My knowledge that the Turks
were finding difficulty in providing their 6th Army Corps
with remounts and transport was the cause of my reference to
the Political Secretary, and it seems probable that the latter
is to blame for the mistake which has occurred.

212. Koweit (195)

No. 2576 (Confidential), dated Bushire, the 25th September (received 3rd October) 1910.

From—Lieutenant-Colonel P. Z. Cox, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

no copy

In continuation of my telegram No. 843, dated 2nd September 1910, I have the honour to submit the result of the enquiries made by the Political Agent, Koweit, from Sheikh Mubarak as to how the registration question in connection with his properties on the Shatt-el-Arab had been solved in the past.

Koweit Agency letter No. C.-55, dated 14th September 1910.

below

2. The present position is recapitulated by Captain Shakespear in the concluding paragraph of his report, and it will be remarked that in the last transaction put through the transfer of part of the Mutawiah property from Hamid-al-Khalid to the Sheikh nationality certificates were insisted on, and the difficulty got over by the acceptance of such certificates by one wife and two concubines of Sheikh Mubarak.

3. The attitude assumed by the Turkish authorities in this case and in respect of the Fadaghia transaction is not compatible with the position claimed by Mr. Crow and accepted by Vali Suliman Nazif Bey's predecessor, as set forth in the papers quoted in my telegram of 2nd instant, but in existing circumstances the settlement of the difficulty by the registration of the property in the names of the same three ladies, or the Sheikh's blind son, seems the simplest solution; though the fact that the formal good offices of His Majesty's Embassy should take the form of such a suggestion seems to me to bear a somewhat inconvenient aspect in reference to our attitude upon the question of the status of Koweit, an aspect which the Sheikhs of Koweit and Mohammerah may not impossibly regard as indicative of a change of policy on our part.

For this reason, should the solution of the Fadaghia question assume the above shape, I venture to advise that, in order to maintain a consistent attitude locally, we inform Sheikh Mubarak that we learn that the Porte are inclined to compromise with him on those lines, and that as his financial interests are so strongly concerned, we do not propose to complicate matters by raising any objections.

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page 218

No. C.-55 (Confidential), dated the 14th September 1910.

From—Captain W. H. I. Shakespear, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit,

To—The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

replaces typed draft

I have the honour to invite a reference to the Government of India's telegram No. 482-S., dated the 21st August 1910, a copy of which was forwarded to me under your Second Assistant's endorsement No. 2273, dated the 23rd August 1910.

page 218

2. On my return to Koweit I brought up the subject of his properties on the Shatt-el-Arab in two interviews with the Sheikh. Sheikh Mubarak tells me that originally there were five properties named respectively Kutizain, Gherdilan, Ajerawiya, Fao and Sufieh in the joint possession of the Subah family, and a small one Farhaniya (also known as Dowasir), which has been Mubarak's in his own separate right from a very long time. The first five were redistributed as the result of the agreement come to between Sheikh Mubarak and his nephews in September 1903, a copy of which is already on the Residency records. As a result of this agreement Mubarak gave up his interest in the other four estates for the exclusive right to Fao, retaining of course the small separate one of Farhaniya, which was already his own.

Thus we have now only to deal with the Fao estate the Farhaniya estate and the gardens subsequently purchased.

3. Both the Fao and Farhaniya estates were inherited, and as regards them no demand has ever been made for registration in the "Tapu" Office books and they have never been so registered. The Sheikh says his title to these two consists of documents from his forefathers of the nature of testamentary, gift or mutual agreement deeds.

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4. From the end of 1907 to beginning of 1909 he purchased what is now described as the Mutawiah property from Sheikh Sadun of the Muntifich and Abdur Rahman Beg, his brother. The property consisted of two main divisions known as Shaleh and Hizan, but the vendors owned portions in each division. Sheikh Mubarak purchased first Abdur Rahman's land directly from him, and, no difficulties being made by the Turkish authorities as to nationality certificates, had it registered at once in the "Tapu" Office books in the names of his four sons. For various reasons he did not wish to purchase direct from Sheikh Sadun and therefore, though he provided the money, the sale-deed was drawn in the name of Hamid-al-Khalid and the transfer effected to this man's name in the "Tapu" Office. This is the same man who was reported by my predecessor as forced to take out a Turkish nationality certificate to protect himself in his trade-dealings in Basrah. Some time subsequently, the Sheikh saw no use in leaving this land in Hamid-al-Khalid's name and therefore had fresh sale-deeds made out authenticating a sale from Hamid to himself and had the transfer duly registered in the "Tapu" Office books in the names of three of his women-kind (one being the mother of Sheikh Jabir and the other two concubines). On this occasion, which I am now told occurred some time last year, the authorities insisted on nationality certificates and accordingly these documents were taken out for the three women.

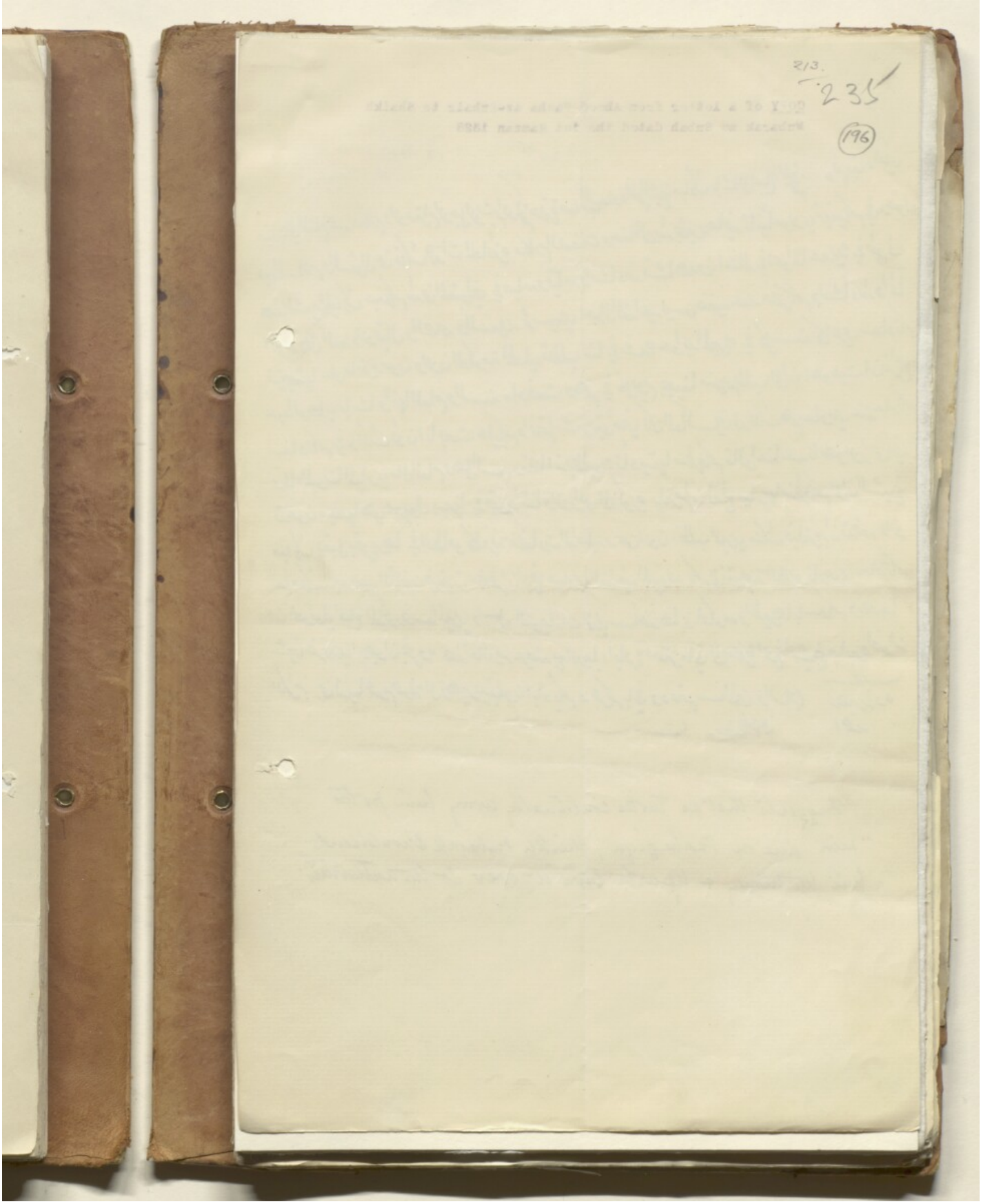
5. There remains only the Fadaghia property which consists of portions named Al-Kharam, Al-Bashiya, and Fadaghia, but the whole is now always called Fadaghia. This property was purchased from Ahmed Pasha az-zuhair's family and four sale-deeds were executed, all of which were witnessed by most of the notables in Basrah. It was a condition cited in these deeds that the transfer in the "Tapu" Office books should be carried out by the vendor party, the vendee paying all expenses. It is in this case that the Turkish authorities are obstructive by demanding that this property must be registered in the names of the Sheikh's four sons and that they shall all take out Turkish nationality certificates.

6. To recapitulate, the Sheikh's properties now consist of—

(a) The Fao and Farhaniya estates acquired by inheritance and not registered in the "Tapu" Office.

(b) The Mutawiah property of Shaleh and Hizan acquired by purchase in 1907-08 and duly registered in the "Tapu" Office partly in the names of the Sheikh's four sons, who did not take out nationality certificates, and partly in the names of three of his women, for whom nationality certificates were taken out some time last year.

(c) The Fadaghiya estates acquired by purchase in 1908-09 and as yet not registered owing to Turkish officials insisting that Sheikh's four sons should take out nationality papers and the transfer be made to their names.



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COPY of a letter from Ahmed Pasha az-Zuhair to Shaikh Mubarak as Subah dated the 1st Ramzan 1328

? 20th 13 Sept 1910

J.E.D. 19/9/13.

جناب عالي المقام عميد المكارم والاحترام الاجل الاشهم الافخم حضرة صاحب السعادة العم الشيخ مبارك باشا آل صباح المفخم دام بقاه آمين

بعد السلام والسؤال عن تلك الذات الحائزة مكارم الصفات وعنا الحمد لله بخير وعافية ثانياً مولدي نهنيكم في دخول هذا الشهر المبارك جعلكم الله من المقبولين في صيامه وقيامه وانشاء الله تشاهدون امثاله في اعواماً عديدة في طول العمر وكمال العز والاقبال والصحة والسرور ثم سيدي احوال الفداغيه ليس خفيه عند حضرتكم وانشاء الله دائماً نتيجتها على ما تريدون ولان الحكومة المحلية تطلب منا في شدة عوايد الميريه في كل سنه كما عرف سعادتكم عبد الوهاب باشا وانها العام والسنه ما دفعت وهم في كل يوم يجينا منهم طلب الى ان احوجت ان نراجع سعادتكم في ذالك لان انا بعت عليكم وانتم اشتريتو مني لكن المعاكسين لذالك هم معلومين عند سعادتكم ولما طلبونا الميري حال العام وهل السنه وقلنا انه يطلبون تأديتها منطرفكم قالوا احنا عندنا هل الاراضي التي تدعون بيعها هي مجهول بيعها في قيوداتنا والاراضي المذكوره يلزم ان تدفع ميريها منطرفكم الى ان الشيخ مبارك يقبل بتحريرها في الطابو كما عرفه نظارت الداخليه ونحن الان نطلب الميري منك فيلزم ان تدفعه والا نعاملك بموجب القانون فيقيت مضطر ان ادفع ميري الفداغيه المبيوعه لكم الى نتيجة الطابو فارجو من سعادتكم ان تحولوني المبلغ المذكور ذو سد الميري واصل التوجانات الذي سأخذها من الحكومه واظهرها باسمكم وهذا شيء ضروري ارجوان تجروه هذا ما لزم عرضه مع الدعاء ابلاغ احترامات الى حضرة الاخ الشيخ جابر واخوانه الكرام من لدينا عموم حمولة آل زهير يقبلون ايادكم وعمركم باقي ودمتم سالمين والسلام

زهيرزاده احمد

Suggests that as Turks continually worry him for the "miri" due on Fadhaghiya, Sheikh Mubarak should send him the money & he will turn it over to the authorities

214.

236

(197)

SEP 30 1910

C.131

No. 2577 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 25th September 1910.

Copies of the undermentioned communications are forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information, with reference to the correspondence ending with his letter No. C.55 dated 14th September 1910.

page 233

By Order,

S. Crothwaite Captain,

Second Assistant Resident.

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(1) India Office to Foreign Office, letter dated 11th August 1910.

(2) Resident to Foreign . Letter No. 2576 dated 25th September 1910.

print hide page 233

215. 237 (198)

(Received with Foreign Department Endorsement No. 1939-E.A. dated the 14th September 1910).

India Office to Foreign Office.

11th August 1910.

page 216

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to forward, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram from the Government of India regarding the difficulties that are being experienced by the Sheikh of Koweit in regard to the registration of his property at Fadhagiya, together with papers received by mail which explain the position more fully.

no copy

Viscount Morley is inclined to share the opinion expressed by Sir G. Lowther in his despatch of 6th July that "it would seem very dangerous for us to interfere in the matter". But inasmuch as it is important both that the Sheikh should believe in our power to help him and that he should not be induced to commit himself or his successor to Turkey, His Lordship would suggest that, if the position at Constantinople is such as to warrant any hope of success, His Majesty's Ambassador should be instructed to use his good offices to secure the registration of the property in the name of the Sheikh's blind son or of one or more of his women-folk.

I have etc.

(sd) R. Ritchie.

The Under Secy. of State
Foreign Office.

(Received with Foreign Department endorsement No. 1930-E.A. dated the 14th September 1910).

India office to Foreign Office.

11th August 1910.

Sir,

I am directed by the Secretary of State for India to forward, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a telegram from the Government of India regarding the difficulties that are being experienced by the Sheikh of Koweit in regard to the registration of his property at Fadhaghiya, together with papers received by mail which explain the position more fully.

Viscount Morley is inclined to share the opinion expressed by Sir G. Lowther in his despatch of 6th July that "it would seem very dangerous for us to interfere in the matter". But inasmuch as it is important both that the Sheikh should believe in our power to help him and that he should not be induced to commit himself or his successor to Turkey, His Lordship would suggest that, if the position at Constantinople is such as to warrant any hope of success, His Majesty's Ambassador should be instructed to use his good offices to secure the registration of the property in the name of the Sheikh's blind son or of one or more of his women-folk.

I have etc.

(sd) R. Nicholls.

The Under Secy. of State
Foreign Office.

CONFIDENTIAL.

216. (199) 238

No. 2659 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 4th October 1910.

W 70-1/3 OCT 6 - 1910 C.136

Subject:-

FADHAGIYA.

A copy of the undermentioned telegram is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, for favour of enquiry and report.

By Order,

J.S. Crawfurd Captain,

Second Assistant Resident.

- -

Foreign to Resident. No. S.568 dated 1st October 1910.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 2657 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 4 October 1910.

Subject:-

FADHAGIYA.

A copy of the undermentioned telegram is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Kuwait, for favour of enquiry and report.

By Order,

S. Cunningham Captain,

Second Assistant Resident.

- -

Foreign to Resident. No. 3.588 dated 1st October 1910.

217.

239

200

Telegram P

From Foreign to Resident.

No S 568 dated 1 received 2.10.10.

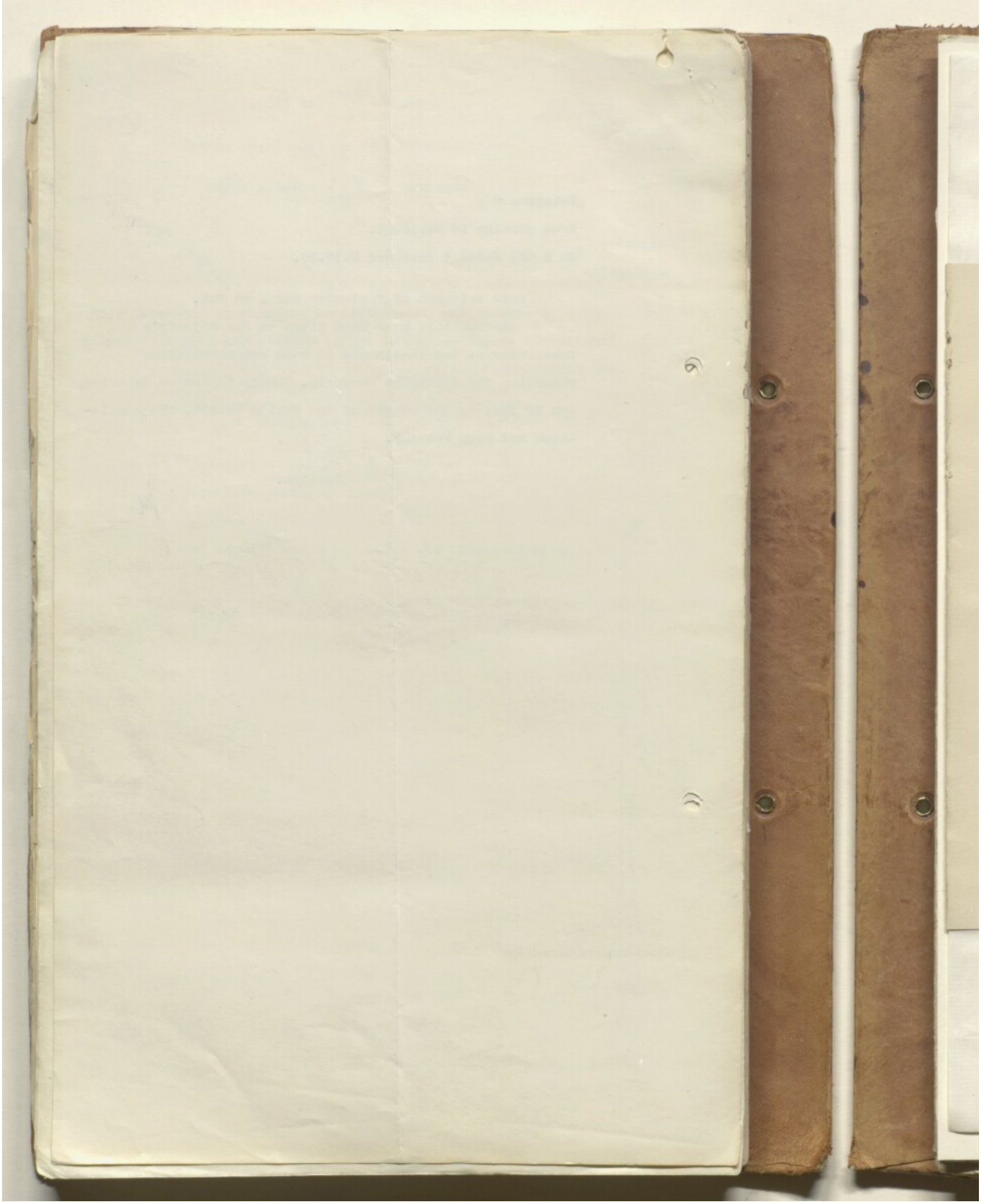
no copy

Your telegram of September 2nd , No 843.

Instructions have been given to His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to make representations regarding the Fadhagiya property. Kindly inform me by telegr -ph if ~~[illegible]~~, as the result of the Wali's recall, the regula- -tion has been relaxed.

Foreign.

M.



219.
241
(202)

No number

From Resident, Bushire.

To - Secretary of State India Office. Repeated to Foreign Dept.

218.
240
(201)

W 26
OCT 28 1910
C. 142

BRITISH CONSULATE FOR ARABISTAN · MOHAMMERAH ·

Zikki
15/10/10

My dear Shakespear.

I am enclosed paraphrase for your infor[mation]. I saw Mubarak just after receiving the telegram and he & Abdul Aziz bin Salim gave me the information. Yours

Yours sincerely
P. Zoë

219.

241

(202)

No number

From Resident, Bushire.

To - Secretary of State India Office. Repeated to Foreign Dept.

---------- ooOoo ----------

no copy

Your telegram of 13th or 18th to Bushire.

(i) Shaikh Mubarak informs me today that he sent his Secretary to Basrah yesterday to pay to new Wali the Fidaghiyah revenue. Wali refused to accept money and said he had orders to treat Ahmed Pasha as owner of the estate: Shaikh Mubarak was not to be recognised unless he registered his 4 sons as Turkish subjects. Wali added that unless revenue was paid by Ahmed Pasha attachment of date-crop would follow.

(ii) Political Agent Bahrain reports actual appointment of officials residing at Hofhuf, as Mudirs at Odaid under Abu Dhabi, and Zobara opposite Bahrain, but as far as he can make out without visiting places himself neither have yet joined their posts.

Cox Mohammerah 14th October.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 2793 of 1910.

220.

242

(203)

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 19 October 1910.

A copy of the undermentioned telegram is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information.

By Order,

S. Crosthwaite Captain,

Second Assistant Resident.

- -

Resident to Secretary of State for India. Dated 14th October 1910.

OCT 23 1910

a 143

221.

243

204

Telegram.

From Cox Mohammerah. (Resident Bushire).

To Secretary of State for India.

Repeated to Foreign Department.

Dated 14th October 1910.

Your telegram of 12th or 13th to Bushire.

(i). Shaikh Mubarak informs me today that he sent his Secretary to Busreh yesterday to pay to new Wali the Fidaghiyeh revenue. Wali refused to accept money and said he had orders to treat Ahmed Pasha as owner of the estate; Shaikh Mubarak was not to be recognised unless he registered his 4 sons as Turkish subjects. Wali added that unless revenue was paid by Ahmed Pasha attachment of date-crop would follow.

(ii). Political Agent Bahrein reports actual appointment of officials residing at Hofhuf, as Mudirs at Odeid under Abu Thabi, and Zobara opposite Bahrein, but as far as he can make out without visiting places himself neither have yet joined their posts.

Cox Mohammerah 14th October.

Confidential.

222.

244

205

No. 903 of 1910.

W 70-15
OCT 23 1910
C. 146

To,

The Political Agent,

Kuwait.

British Residency & Consulate General,

Baghdad, 8th October 1910.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward herewith for your information some confidential Items of News relating to Turkish 'Iraq.

Enclosures 4

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

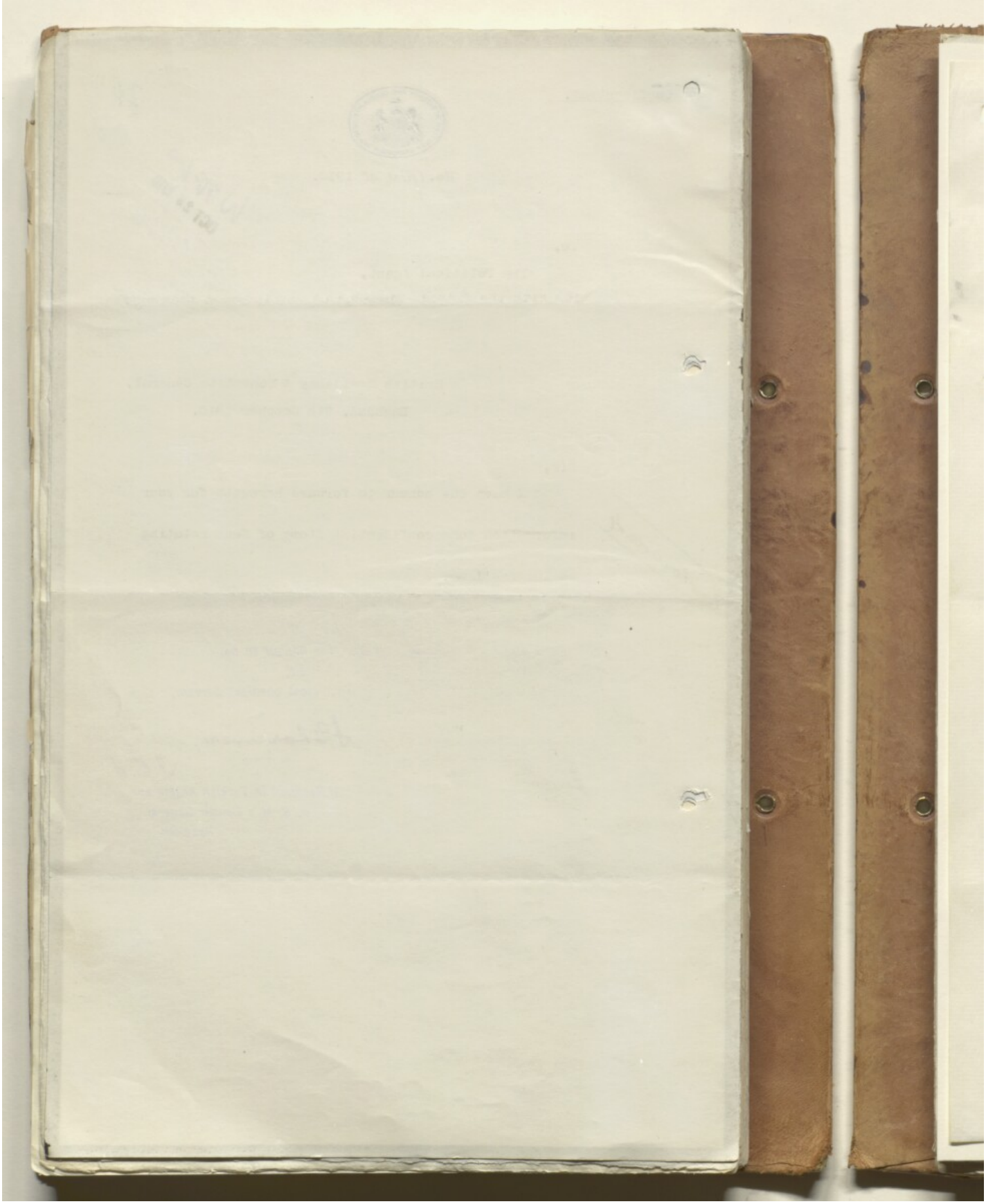
S Shorrer,

I.C.S.

Political Resident in Turkish Arabia and

H. B. M.'s Consul General

Baghdad



Confidential.

223.
206 245

A vacancy having occurred in the Waliship of Basrah, Jalal Bey, Mutasarrif of Karbala has been appointed to that post. He left Karbala for Basrah viâ Baghdad on the 23rd of September. Up to the last moment he was engaged in superintending the demolition of houses; and, in his last conversation with the British Vice-Consul, he informed that officer that," after consultation with the foreign Consuls, he would "lay the axe on the town of Basrah as he had done on that of "Karbala". Notwithstanding his weakness for knocking down houses and his neglect, due perhaps to want of money and official encouragement, of measures for promoting the real prosperity of the country, he has made on the whole a good Mutasarrif; and it is to be hoped that he will give equal satisfaction as a Wali. I have more than once before this made reference to his character and doings. Jalal Bey is not, I think, a persona grata with Nazim Pasha, whose policy at Karbala he has more than once openly cricised; but he is probably none the less a strong nationalist.

The Wali's Political Secretary tells me that His Excellency has nominated Major Saib Bey, his own principal aide-de-camp and favourite officer, ~~for~~ for the governorship of Karbala; but the appointment has not yet been announced, a reference to Constantinople being perhaps required.

---

224. (207) 246

Confidential.

The Wali of Basrah, Sulaiman Nazif Bey, was relieved from office by order of the Porte on the 16th September, and left Basrah for Constantinople by sea on the following day. Nazim Pasha, in the exercise of his powers of supervision over the Basrah Wilayat, is believed to have reported more than once against Sulaiman Nazif Bey, whom he disliked; and Sulaiman Nazif Bey was also at feud, for reasons which have been described by H.B.M's Consul at Basrah, with Hikmat Bey, the Turkish Naval Commodore at Basrah. At Baghdad the general belief is that the Basrah Wali's departure was in the end chiefly due to his recent quarrel with Saiyid Talib Pasha.

I pointed out, at the time of Nazim Pasha's appointment to Baghdad, the probability of trouble arising from the anomalous position in which he was placed by his Farman of appointment with regard to Musal and Basrah. The Walis of those places should be either independent of the Governor-General of Baghdad, or entirely subject to his authority in the same manner as the heads of provinces in India are under the Viceroy.

Sulaiman Nazif Bey's successor is Jalal Bey, Mutasarrif of Karbala, as already mentioned above.

225

208

247

Confidential.

Thr British Vice-Consul at Karbala, reports the influx, beginning on the 3rd September, of the desert Arabs, chiefly 'Anaizah, who are accustomed to visit Mesopotamia at this time of the year to make their annual purchases. They are numbered by thousands; and their presence, when prolonged, is apt to be inconvenient to the permanent inhabitants and to the authorities. The Vice-Consul remarks that this time a number of Harb from the far west, and of Mutair from the centre, of Arabia have arrived along with the 'Anaizah.

Confidential.

226.
(209) 245

Mr. Crow, H.B.M's Consul at Basrah, has mentioned a report by Hikmat Bey, the Turkish Naval Commodore at Basrah, in which the latter represented to the Minister of Marine that Basrah was in danger of being occupied by the English, and that it would not be safe unless a gunboat and a transport vessel were added to the squadron under his command.

The late Wali of Basrah, on a telegraphic reference from his Government, seems to have replied by very properly poohpoohing the imaginary danger and at the same time ridiculing the proposed remedy.

327.

Koweit 249

(210)

FEB 20 1911

No. 2972, Confidential, dated Bushire, the 6th (received 15th) November 1910.

From—Lieutenant-Colonel P. Z. Cox, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

With reference to my telegram No. 997, dated 27th October 1910, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the marginally noted letter, since received from the Political Agent, Koweit, regarding the attachment by the Turks of the date crop on the Fadaghia property belonging to Sheikh Mubarak and the measures taken by the latter to secure the removal of the attachment, already briefly reported in my telegram above-mentioned.

Koweit, No. C.-64, dated 25th October 1910.

2. The attitude of the Basrah authorities towards this question is another of the factors which combine to bring me to the opinion expressed in my telegram that the present position is "impossible", and Captain Shakespear's views as expressed in this present communication have my entire concurrence.

No. 1029, dated 2nd November 1910.

No. C-64, Confidential, dated Koweit, the 25th October 1910.

From—Captain W. H. I. Shakespear, I.A., Political Agent, Koweit,

To—The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

I have the honour to invite a reference to the correspondence regarding Sheikh Mubarak's Fadaghia property ending with your Second Assistant's endorsement No. 2793, dated the 19th October 1910.

2. As you met the Sheikh at Mohammerah in person no answer is required to the query addressed to me in Captain Crosthwaite's endorsement No. 2659, dated the 4th October 1910, to which I have not been able to reply earlier owing to the Sheikh's absence from Koweit.

3. Since his return, however, I have discussed the subject with the Sheikh, and it appears that subsequent to his meeting with you and after the despatch of your telegram of the 14th October to the Secretary of State, attachment of the date crop at Fadaghia was actually carried out, a number of Turkish soldiers being posted in the gardens and all shipments stopped. The Sheikh tells me that he then again sent his Secretary to the new Vali pointing out the injustice of the procedure in view of the facts known to all that the property really belonged to Sheikh Mubarak, that he was ready to pay the revenue due, and indeed that though prepared to do so for a long time, the offer had been declined by the Turkish authorities. Finally, the Sheikh informs me the revenue was actually accepted and a receipt passed for the amount citing that the "revenue for the Fadaghia property standing in the name of Ayesha Khanum had been received from the hand of Abdul Aziz bin Salim bin Badr." The Sheikh seemed pleased with this subterfuge and said that the attachment was then immediately removed by order of the Vali.

4. It was of very urgent importance that the attachment should be raised as early as possible and the Sheikh may have cause for self-congratulation in having effected it by his own unaided efforts; but it is impossible to avoid the reflection that as a solution of a very important question involving ultimately the whole status of Koweit, it is an exceedingly poor substitute for the recognition of "Koweiti" as a distinct nationality, distinct that is to say from Turkish. The difficulty has been tided over for the present, but the Sheikh is still left exposed to the machinations of the Turkish officials at Basrah, and is still unrecognised officially as the rightful owner of the property.

5. In submitting this report, I have the honour to solicit your utmost support in recommending to His Majesty's Government that no really permanent solution of the difficulty is possible until at least the recognition of "Koweiti" as a distinct and separate nationality has been obtained from the Turkish Government. The Sheikh again expressed his faith and reliance on British support, but, considering his age and the extent to which his patience has already been tried in this far-reaching matter and one which at present also so closely affects his pocket, it is, in my humble opinion, one deserving of the most urgent consideration, if His Majesty's Government still attaches importance to the maintenance of our special position in Koweit and to the possibilities of the port, both commercially and strategically in the near future.

228.

(211) 250

OCT 26 1910

C. 151.

H.B.M. CONSULATE,
BASRA.

October 22 1910

My dear Shakespear.

Many thanks for your No. 587 with the summary of news for September. Suleyman Nazif Bey resigned on account of differences with Nazim Pasha, who seems generally unpopular, and left by mail on Sep. 17. He was urgently recalled at the end by Talaat Bey, the Minister of the Interior and a pal of his. We suppose he had something in his pocket for him on his arrival. The new Vali ~~who~~ arrived from Bagdad on Oct 1 after an interregnum, in which the Cadi gained no credit and was superseded by the Tahrirat Mudiri. He is Djelal bey former Mutessarif of Kerbela and, I am told, a Cretan. He seems very obstinate talks excellent Turkish has advanced views regarding the suppression of foreign privileges and the taxation of all unbelievers in Turkey, especially the wealthy English for the good of the State. He is certainly not helpful over the Telegraph building questions at Fao where they are trying to shut our people off from the North wind and deprive them of their garden. Trouble has broken out at Fedaghia between Mishri's people and their

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H.B.M. CONSULATE
BASRA

former fellahs,(Chenan's people I believe)and the latter attacked the gardens in force and carried off all the dates. Mishri now claims 6000 liras. The Marmaris has been sent with 30 gendarmes and shots have been fired as usual in the air. I hear the dates have been taken to the Persian side. We have cholera both here and at Bagdad. 3 cases here of which 2 fatal since Oct. 20. The Germans have opened their Consulate at Basra Wonckhaus is Consul(Honorary) and in his absence the German Consul, Dr Hesse, who is now here with his wife, is in charge. He shortly returns to Bagdad and leaves Mr Gloye, one of Wonckhaus's clerks in charge as Chancelier. The Héritte have gone, they stayed a fort-night with me. We fished and one day he bagged 21 partridges. The date season is proceeding as usual and I find it hard to get any tennis. My wife and daughter are still away and have been since the 10 of Sep I expect them back at the end of the month. The wedding went off very satisfactorily and they seem to have enjoyed themselves.

Hope you are fit and not getting tired of Koweit

When may we have the pleasure of seeing you again.

yours sincerely

229.

(212) 252

~~No~~

His Britannic Majesty's Consulate for Arabistan,
Mohammerah, the 22nd October 1910.

OCT 28 1910

P.154

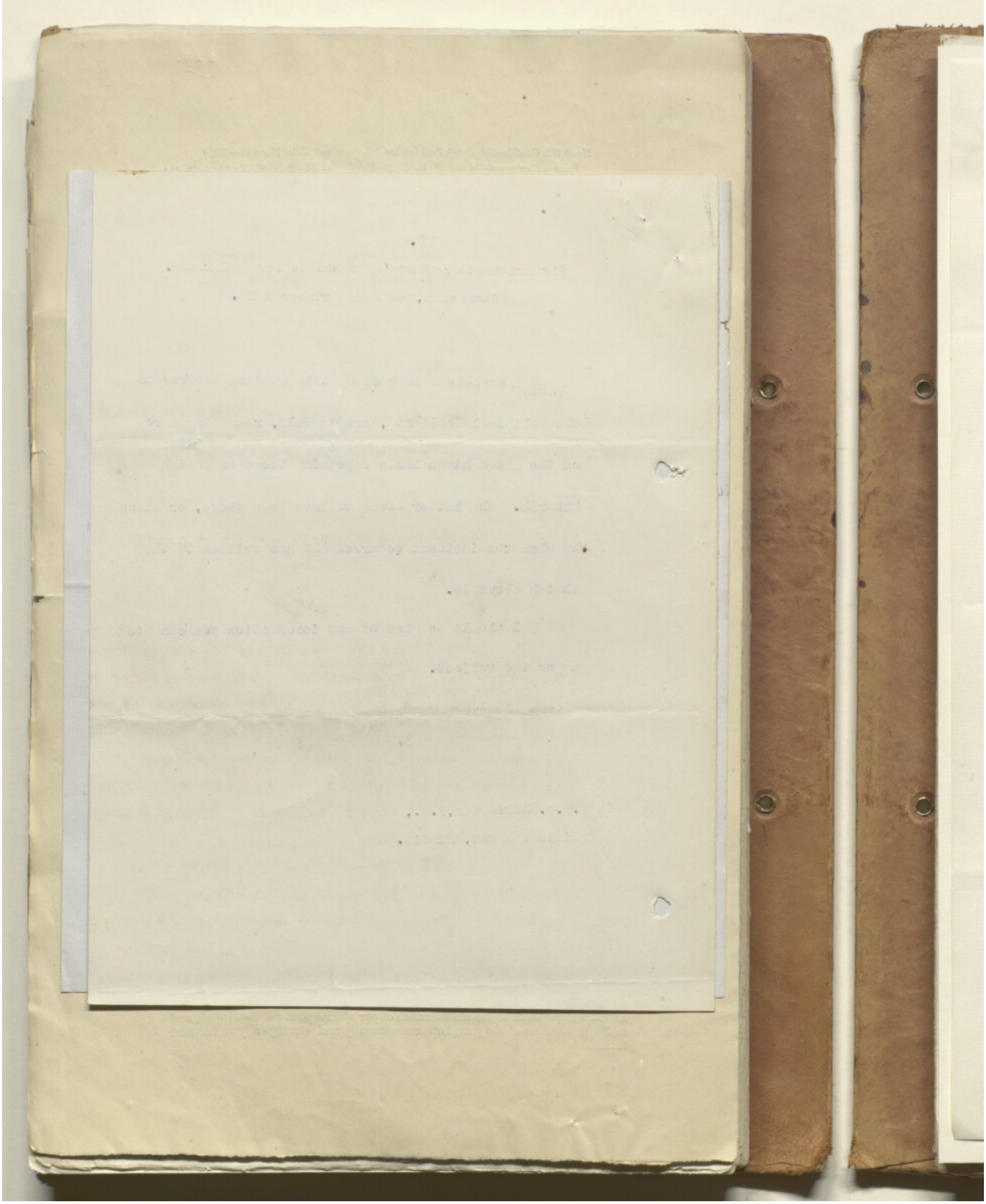
My dear Shakespear

I enclose a copy of my 1175 of 22nd October to the Political Resident, Persian Gulf, regarding a row on the Faddaghiyah lands adjoining those of Shaikh Mubarak. The latter seems to have been there, or close by when the incident occurred and has written to the Shaikh about it.

I should be glad of any information you can pick up on the subject.

Yours sincerely
A. T. Wilson

Captain W.H.I.Shakespear, I.A.,
Political Agent, Kuwait.



230. Kuwait

253

213

No. 1175 of 1910.

H.B.M's Consulate for Arabistan,

Mohammerah, 22nd October 1910.

From,

Lieutenant A. T. Wilson, I.A.,

H.B.M's Acting Consul for Arabistan.

To,

The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

Bushire.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the marginally no-
-ted correspondence on the subject of the par-
-ticular incident which gave rise to the

(1). Consul Basrah to Ambassador, No. 22 dated 25.4.10. (below page 256)
(2). Consul, Mohammerah, to Resident No. 423 dated 30.4.10. (below page 257)
(3). -Ditto- -ditto- No. 566 dated 4.6.10. (below page 258)
(Extracts attached for reference.)

Shaikh's recent difficulties with the Turks, as a direct consequence of which the Turkish gunboat "Marmaris" shell-
-ed the village of Zain.

2. On Tuesday night October 18th according to in-
-formation communicated to me and confirmed by Haji Rais and Mirza Hamzah, a concerted attack was made by a number of Arabs upon the agent and fallahs of Muhammad al Mishri occupying date plantations in Faddaghiyah (which adjoin those of Shaikh Mubarak), half way between Basrah and Fao. News of the occurrence reached Mohammerah on the 19th and on the evening of the 20th the "Marmaris" went down to Faddaghiyah to enquire into the case of the disturbance. The Tabur Agassi was on board.

3. It appears that the fallahs (subjects of the Shaikh of Mohammerah) whom the Turks evicted from the lands in April took refuge with Naghaimish Ibrahim bin

Naghaimish

Naghaimish a petty Shaikh who with his followers, lives at Ma'amir near Fao, and who was concerned in the piracy of a Persian boat on 8th March. His name is as now given and not as stated in correspondence on the subject of that incident.

They were replaced in Mishri's lands by other tribes--men of the Shaikh, the chief headmen of whom were named Humaiyid, M'atuq and Ishaq.

4. It appears that the Qaimmaqam of Fao recommend--ed to the new Wali of Basrah that the old fallahs, who had taken refuge with Naghaimish, should be reinstated in their old homes, and that the Wali approved of the suggestion. The Qaimmaqam then gave orders to the Tur--kish police officer (chaush) in Faddaghiyeh to reinstate the said fallahs and remove those who had taken their place.

The police officer referred the matter to his official superior , who told him not to obey the Qaimmaqam and some time was spent in the exchange of letters on this subject between the various officials concerned.

5. At last the fallahs in whose favour the Wali had decided, incited it is said, by Shaikh Naghaimish, and perhaps with the tacit approval of the Qaimmaqam of Fao, attacked the date groves in force, forcibly the agent of Mishri and looted dates and other property. They are at the time of writing still in possession.

There was a good deal of firing on both sides but no lives were lost.

6. The foregoing version is that which I have been able to obtain locally. The absence of the Shaikh at Ah--was makes it impossible for me to discuss the question with him, but I understand that Shaikh Mubarak was near the land in question, in his yacht, on Tuesday night , and that he has written to the Shaikh on the subject.

7. It is not impossible that the incident may be utilized by the Turks as a peg on which to hang accusa--tions

232.

215

accusations against Shaikh, and I have therefore thought it advisable to report the matter in detail.

On the information before me, it appears that the incident arises principally out of the dissensions be--tween Turkish officials concerned, and their inability to control Shaikh Naghaimish, which was evinced in so marked a degree during the enquiry by them into the piracy of the 7th March.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

A. T. Wilson Lieutenant,

His Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul

for Arabistan.

232.

256

216

Extract from Mr. Consul Crow's despatch No. 22 of 23rd April 1910 to His Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople.

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x x x x x Last month Muhammad Bey al Mishri applied to the Turkish authorities in the usual way to remove certain fellahs from his property at Dawasir. The authorities tried to carry out the orders given for their removal but without success, and the trespassers were supported in their attitude to the local authorities by one Muhammad al Kanan, who with his followers livesat Zain on Turkish territory.

The Wali sent the Tabur Agassi with 15 gendar--mes to arrest Muhammad al Kanan. This they were not able to do, and were informed in answer to their demands, that all the people there belonged to Shaikh Khaz'al, and were unable to come to Basrah, and if the arrest were insisted on, the agent of Muhammad Bey al Mishri would be killed in the same way as Kasim Chelmeran.

x x x x x x x x x x

x x x x x x

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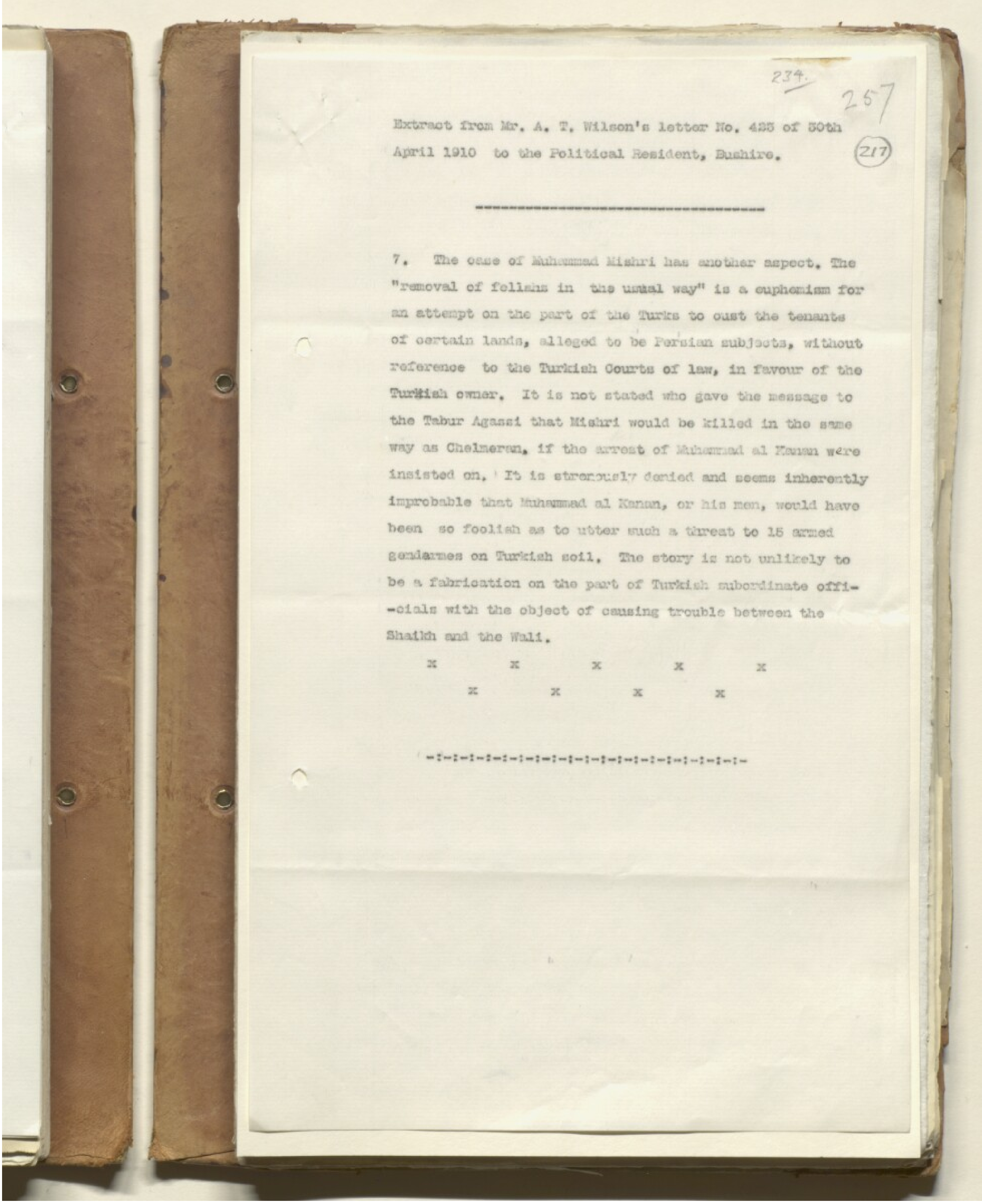

234.

257

Extract from Mr. A. T. Wilson's letter No. 425 of 30th April 1910 to the Political Resident, Bushire.

(217)

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7. The case of Muhammad Mishri has another aspect. The "removal of fellahs in the usual way" is a euphemism for an attempt on the part of the Turks to oust the tenants of certain lands, alleged to be Persian subjects, without reference to the Turkish Courts of law, in favour of the Turkish owner. It is not stated who gave the message to the Tabur Agassi that Mishri would be killed in the same way as Chelmeran, if the arrest of Muhammad al Kanan were insisted on. It is strenuously denied and seems inherently improbable that Muhammad al Kanan, or his men, would have been so foolish as to utter such a threat to 15 armed gendarmes on Turkish soil. The story is not unlikely to be a fabrication on the part of Turkish subordinate officials with the object of causing trouble between the Shaikh and the Wali.

x x x x x

x x x x

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235. 258

Extract from a letter No. 566 dated 4th June 1910 from His Majesty's Consul, Mohammerah to the Political Resident, Bushire

(218)

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x x x x x

7. The Shaikh replies that the "trespassers" whom Mishri

Mishri, a Turkish landowner, applied to the Turkish authorities in the usual way to remove certain cultivators from his lands at Dawasir, but without success, and trespassers were supported by Muhammad Khanan, an adherent of the Shaikh. (Mr. Crows Despatch 22 of 22nd april 1910) N.B. This is a complaint against Muhammad Khanan not against the Shaikh.

tried to have remove in the "usual way" were subjects of his and belonged to the Persian tribe of

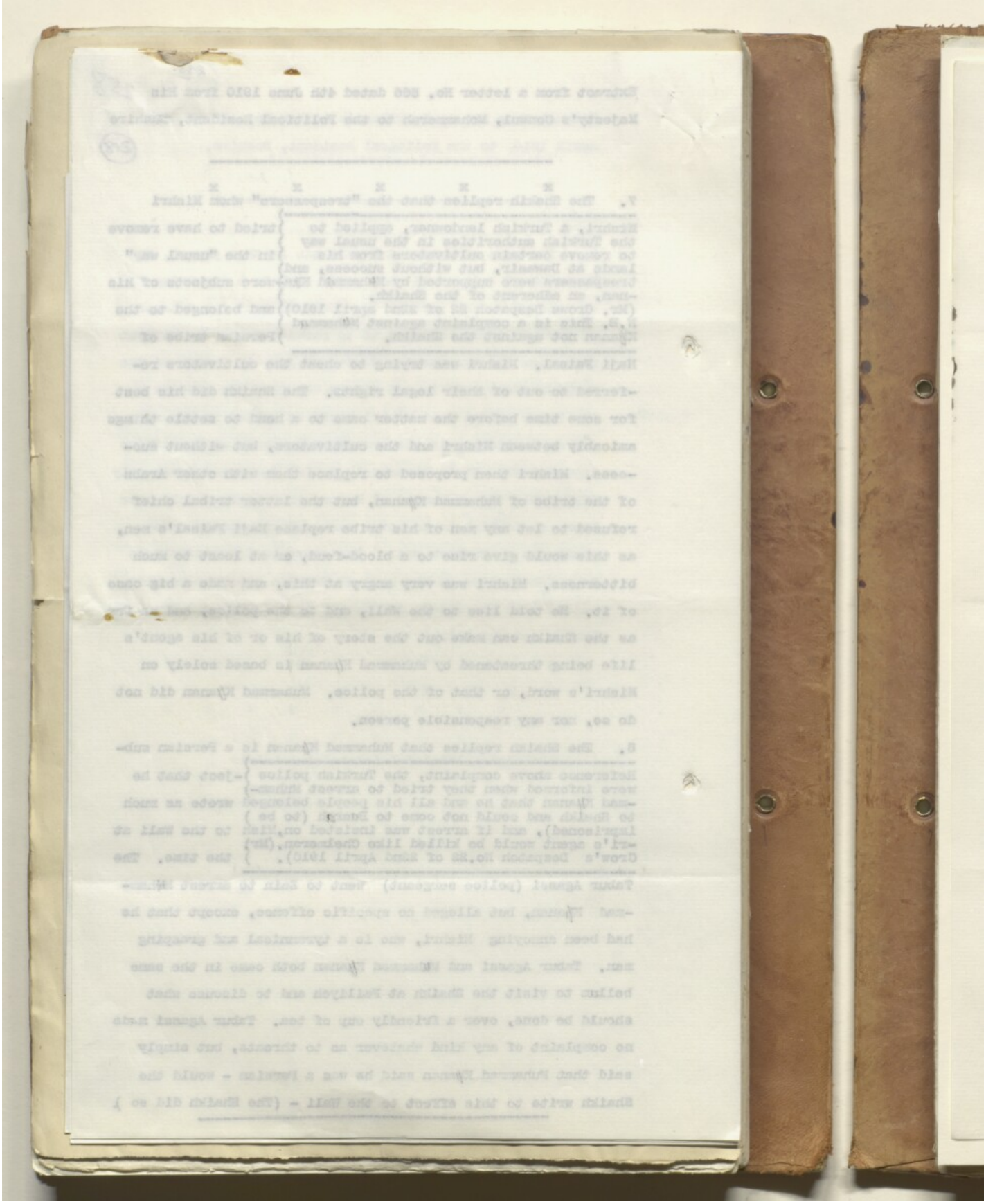
Haji Faisal. Mishri was trying to cheat the cultivators re-ferred to out of their legal rights. The Shaikh did his best for some time before the matter came to a hand to settle things amicably between Mishri and the cultivators, but without suc-cess. Mishri then proposed to replace them with other Arabs of the tribe of Muhammad Khanan, but the latter tribal chief refused to let any men of his tribe replace Haji Faisal's men, as this would give rise to a blood-feud, or at least to much bitterness. Mishri was very angry at this, and made a big case of it. He told lies to the Wali, and to the police, and as far as the Shaikh can make out the story of his or of his agent's life being threatened by Muhammad Khanan is based solely on Mishri's word, or that of the police. Muhammad Khanan did not do so, nor any responsible person.

8. The Shaikh replies that Muhammad Khanan is a Persian sub-

Reference above complaint, the Turkish police were informed when they tried to arrest Muham-mad Khanan that he and all his people belonged to Shaikh and could not come to Basrah (to be imprisoned), and if arrest was insisted on, Mishri's agent would be killed like Chelmeran. (Mr. Crow's Despatch No. 22 of 22nd April 1910).

-ject that he wrote as much to the Wali at the time. The

Tabur Agassi (police sergeant) went to Zain to arrest Muham-mad Khanan, but alleged no specific offence, except that he had been annoying Mishri, who is a tyrannical and grasping man. Tabur Agassi and Muhammad Khanan both came in the same bellam to visit the Shaikh at Failiyeh and to discuss what should be done, over a friendly cup of tea. Tabur Agassi made no complaint of any kind whatever as to threats, but simply said that Muhammad Khanan said he was a Persian - would the Shaikh write to this effect to the Wali - (The Shaikh did so).



236.

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(219)

OCT 30 1910

CORRECTION SLIP

Bushire Kuwait &Basrah only

in my no. 1175 of 22nd October 1910. para. 5 page 254

for

" ~~[illegible]~~ together with the agent of Mishri"

read

" forced the agent of Mishri to fly"

A T Wilson
Lieut. I.A.
Acting Consul.

237.

Confidential 260

H.M.'s Consulate for Arabistan (220)

Mohammerah 25.10.10

no. 1192 of 1910.

Copy of the under mentioned document is forwarded to the Political Agent Kuwait with the compliments of the undersigned with reference to this office no. 1175 of 22nd inst.

A.T. Wilson Lieut. I.A. page 253

Acting Consul.

Consul to Resident no. 1100 (Telegram) dated 25.1010.

— Basrah to Commf Mha — 24.10.10

W. 30 OCT 30 1910 c. 156

238. Kuwait

(22) 261

COPY of a letter dated October 24th 1910. from H.M.'s Consul Basrah to H.M.'s Consul Mohammerah(demi-official)

page 253

Your letter of Oct. 22nd and enclosures about the Mishri affair.////////// The information I have received here tends to confirm what you say. I understand that Sulaiman Nasif before his departure, instructed the Qaim maqam at Fao to try to arrange for the return of the old fallahs to Faddaghiyeh, as they are "tab'ah" i.e. fixtures on the land, and cultivators from father to son, having the right to half the dates. After his departure the matter dropped and the fallahs have now taken the law into their own hands and revenged themselves on Mishri by robbing his dates. The men had the sympathy of the qaim maqam, perhaps in their claim, but the latter could hardly have countenanced these proceedings. According to my information here, Mishri's people telegraphed to the Wali from Amarah to Basrah, some days before the fracas took place, and asked him to protect their gardens at Faddaghiyeh, as they heard they were going to be plundered, but the Wali seems to have taken no action on this telegram. On October 20th, the Qaim maqam of Fao reported the attack to the Wali, and said the dates had been carried off to the Persian side
The Mishris then put in a complaint to the Wilayat, stating their loss to about 6000 Turkish Liras(sic)
and alleging that the robbers numbered 500 persons.
Instructions were then given to the Marmaris to proceed and she left with about 50 gendarmes on board and a Col. Agassi (Shukri Effendi).
A Col. Agassi is an Adjutant Major. On arrival at Faddaghiyeh they fired several shots into the air, hearing that some of the robbers were still in possession, but finding no one there they again left for Fao.
I asked the Wali this morning if he had any cause to suspect sup

239. (222) 262

to suspect support from Sheikh Khazal's people in this and he said he did not think they had anything to do with it. I told him we were anxious to aid him in preserving good rela--tions with Mohammera and if he had any complaint to make about action in that quarter we should be glad to hear as, ac--cording to my information, the trouble was merely caused by the ejected fellahs. He said this was so. The Vali is however a Cretan and, as you know from old school days, Cretans are said to be liars. He may in his own mind hold other views and be unwilling to tell them to me as he no doubt distrusts me. I hear from outside, but this is mere report, that he does think the Sheikh's people are at the bottom of it and, I am told he has written to the Sheikh asking him to recover the dates. You will no doubt be able to find out if any such letter was written. It may be wholly untrue and the Vali may not be the disingenuous person I am asked to believe him to be. He cer--tainly made no complaint against Mohammera to me when I broached the subject this morning but it was not a very favour--able moment for discussing the matter as I was paying him an official visit of congratulation on the occasion of the Sul--tan's birthday.

My dragoman is collecting all the information he can and as Marmaris has returned we shall soon hear what the Turkish re--port on the question contains.

-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-

210.

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(223)

TELEGRAM

From H.M.'s Consul Mohammerah

To Political Resident in the Persian Gulf Bushire

no. 1190

dted 25th October 25th 1910.

sent via Basrah o/o H.M.'s Consul Basrah

(P)

I have received the following communication from H.M.'s Consul Basrah dated 25th October 1910.

begins

I am informed confidentially that on October 20th the Wali in discussing the attack on the Faddaghiyeh lands of Muhammed bin Mishri with his Administrative Council verbally asked them to vote for an attack on Fallijeh and Mohammerah: the council did not assent to the proposal. The Wali then wired to Constantinople to the effect that the attack on Mishri's lands was instigated by Shaikhs Mubarak & Khaz'al, and occurred on the day succeeding the decoration of the latter by the British. I see that the Marmaris which came back yesterday from Faddaghiyeh has again got up steam, and I therefore hasten to send this on to you in view of possible developments.

ends

In view of the above facts, I beg to suggest that a gunboat be sent up here without delay.

WILSON

copies to Kuwait and Basrah.

241. (224)
264

Confidential

No. 1199 of 1910.

H.B.M's Consulate for Arabistan,
Mohammerah, 26th October 1910.

OCT 30 1910
c. 157

A copy of the undermentioned letter is forwarded to the Political Agent Kuwait.

with the compliments of the undersigned.

A.T. Wilson Lieutenant,
H.B.M's Acting Consul for Arabistan.

No. 1198 dated 26th October 1910 from H.M's Consul, Mohammerah, to the Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

242.
265
225

No. 1198 of 1910.

H.B.M's Consulate for Arabistan,

Mohammerah, 26th October 1910.

From,

Lieutenant A. T. Wilson, I.A.,

H.B.M's Acting Consul for Arabistan,

To,

The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

Bushire.

page 263 page 263

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the marginally noted

Consul to Resident No. 1175 D/ 22.10.10 -ditto- telegram 1190 " 25.10.10	correspondence on the subject of the renewed

difficulties between the Shaikh and the Turks.

2. I beg to enclose copies of further correspondence on

Consul to Minister 1194/91 D/ 26.10.10 Consul, Basrah to Consul, Mohammerah dated 24.10.10. -ditto- -ditto- " 25.10.10 Consul, Mohammerah to Consul, Basrah dated 25. 10.10.	the subject, in an-plication of my above telegram.

below

3. The "Marmaris" which returned to Basrah on the 24th passed Mohammerah on her way down river at 10-30 a.m. on the 26th. I have up to the time of writing no further information as to her doings.

4. The Shaikh, who is at Ahwaz, on hearing of the attack on Mishri's property at once wired to Mirza Hamzah to impound all dates found on the Persian side of the river which there might be reason to suspect of having been looted from the Fad-daghiyeh lands, and to comply with any legal demands that the Turks might make for the arrest of Arabs accused of complicity in the outrage, who might have taken refuge in Persian terri-tory.

I

243. 266 (226)

5. I am informed that the gunboat "Marmaris" on the 22nd and 23rd landed parties of soldiers at several points down the Turkish shore and attempted to find the various headmen and interrogate them, but found that they had all prudently absent--ed themselves and that their whereabouts were unknown. Na--ghaimish in particular, with the bulk of his tribe and all his family has disappeared for the moment.

6. It is stated that he even went so far as to send a sowar to near Saihan to cut the telegraph line there so as to prevent the officials at Fao from wiring Basrah for reinforce--ments.

7. Mr. Consul Crow's letter of 24th instant confirms in general the version of the affair which I gave in my letter No. 1175 of the 22nd instant, though I was unaware that Sulaimen Nasif, the late Wali, had taken a personal part in arranging for the return of the old fallahs. His action confirms in a striking way Shaikh Khaz'al's defence of Muhammad al Kanan's ac--tion in April 1910, which was the cause of the attack on Zain by the Turks.

page 261 page 253

8. I am sending copies of this letter to His Majesty's Minister, His Majesty's Consul, Basrah, and the Political Agent Kuwait.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Sd/. A.T. Wilson, Lieutenant,

His Britannic Majesty's Acting Consul

for Arabistan.

Later

9. A robbery accompanied by the murder of two persons, with two severely wounded took place in Basrah on the night of the 24th inst. It is supposed to have been instigated by the family of Nishri, in order to raise resentment against the Shaikh, against whose door it will be laid, and in order to spur the Wali to some violent action.

10. The Shaikh has wired to Haji Rais to take the advice of H. M.'s Consul in regard to all actions proposed by him in regard to the recent occurrence, & to do nothing without his sanction.

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(227)

DRAFT—(For Approval).

POLITICAL ~~Consul, Persian Gulf.~~ Agency Kuwait.

No. C. 67

Dated 1 NOV 1910.

To Pol Resdt,
Bushire.

Sir,

I have the honour to refer to the ~~[illegible]~~ correspondence between H.M's Consul at Mohamerah and yourself regarding the recent incident on the Shatt-al-Arab in which a large quantity of dates ~~[illegible]~~ were raided from the Badhagiyan ~~[illegible]~~ gardens belonging to Mashal al Mishwi.

2. H.M's Consul forwarded ~~a~~ copy ies of the correspondence to me with a request that I would ascertain what was known to Shaikh Mubarak of the facts, as he was near the spot in his yacht at about the time of the occurrence.

3. Shaikh Mubarak in describing the affair said that though he passed the gardens in question ~~in the [illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ ~~[illegible]~~ he saw no signs of any unusual movement of boats or "bellums". The following morning when anchored off Fao he heard of the raid and learnt that

S 638—12,000-7-08

(Continuation of Note, Précis or Draft.)

some 200 'fellahs' who had worked for generations in these gardens and been evicted six months or more ago and who had taken up their residence with bin Naghaimish at Ma'amir had gone off the previous evening accompanied by another 100 of Ma'amir men (followers of Naghaimish apparently) and raided the gardens, driven off bin Mishri's watchers, and removed the dates. Later he heard they had been joined ~~fro~~ by other men from Ziyadieh, Dowasir, and the vicinity attracted by the hope of loot and that altogether some 400 'Karas' of dates had been removed.

He added that he ~~parti~~ made particular enquiries as to whether any men from the Persian side of the river had been concerned and heard that none were implicated. The raid was in revenge for eviction and managed, so far as any concerted action may have been led by anyone in particular, by bin Naghaimish.

Shaikh Mubarak said the Kaim a Kam at Fao was well aware of the true facts and indeed had been previously warned by bin Naghaimish that the evicted 'fellahin' would retaliate unless ~~they received~~ their wrongs were redressed.

S 639—12,000-7-08

246. 229 269

(Continuation of Note, Précis or Draft.)

The first news received at Fao came from the Turkish police post near Fadhaghiya which reported a raid by 1000 men of Shaikh Khaz'al, a number preposterously exaggerated by the "chaush" of the police in order to lay the blame of Turkish mishandling of the original dispute on the Shaikh of Mohammerah.

4. The Shaikh also said that his Secretary, Abdul Aziz bin Salim, was in Basra at the time and the Wali, Telal Bey, was then satisfied that Shaikhs Mubarak & Khaz'al were not concerned in any way and that it was the result of evicting bin Mishri's fellahin six months ago. The Wali also made enquiries from Shaikh Saleh bin Ibrahim, and Shaikh Mubarak suggested that his consul would obtain the actual facts in detail if he enquired from him.

5. As to the rights of the original quarrel Shaikh Mubarak informed me that the usual custom is for the fellahin to receive a fourth or more of the produce of all full-grown trees, that these fellahin had for several generations been on the ground and the present gardens were the result of the labours of their forefathers & themselves. Bin Mishri desired to reduce their share of the produce very consid-

S 639—12,000-7-08

247.

270

230

(Continuation of Note, Précis or Draft.)

considerably, which they naturally resented. They appealed to the late Wali, Suleiman Nuthiff Bey, but failed to get any redress, & were evicted. They nursed their grievance until a favourable opportunity presented itself and then took revenge in the usual way by a raid.

6. Shaikh Mubarak added that he doubted if many of the fellahin concerned were Shaikh Khazal's subjects, for they had been domiciled so long on his lord's lands that several at any rate would be in possession of Turkish nationality certificates.

7. A copy of this letter is being sent to His Highness Mohamerah.

I have etc

Encl—

Copy to Mohamerah under No C. 68. dt 4/10

S 639—12,000-7-08

248.

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No. 2896 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 30. October 1910.

Copies of the undermentioned communications are forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information.

By Order,

S. Crosthwaite. Captain,

Second Assistant Resident.

- -

~~(1). Resident to Foreign. Letter No. 2895 dated the 28th October 1910.~~

(2). Resident to Foreign. Letter No. 2895 dated 30 October 1910.

W 76-25
NOV 3- 1910
C. 158

249. 277 (232)

No. 2895 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 30 October 1910.

From

Lieutenant-Colonel P.Z.Cox, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

To

The Hon'ble Mr. S.H.Butler, C.S.I., C.I.E.,
Secretary to the Government of India
In the Foreign Department,
C A L C U T T A.

no copy

Sir,

In amplification of my telegram No. 1009 dated 28th October 1910, I have the honour to submit, copies of the letters in which the new Wali of Busreh, Hussein Jelal Bey

(1). Wali to Shaikh Mubarak, No.23 dated 11th October 1910.
(2). Shaikh Mubarak to Wali dated 18th October 1910.

(below)

makes to the Shaikh, and the latter politely rejects, an offer of a salary of £T400/- per annum, as Kaimmaqam of Koweit, payable monthly.

I have the honour to be
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

(Sd) P.Z.Cox Lieut-Colonel,
Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

250.

No.23 dated 7th Shawal 1328 = 273

11th October 1910.

233

To

The Honourable Kaimmakam, (Deputy Governor) of Koweit,

Shaikh Mubarak Pasha Al-Subah.

After greeting and enquiries after you, I beg to state that as it is not hidden from you, a certain quantity of dates had formerly been allotted to the Kaimmaqam of Koweit as an annual stipend. As the form of government has changed recently and constitutional era has dawned, the aforesaid annual stipend of dates has been converted into a monthly salary amounting to 3333 piastres, and this is intended for the Kaimmaqam of Koweit (lit. this is in the name of).

Under these circumstances, please let me know from which source you wish to receive the above mentioned salary, whether from the Treasury at Fao or from the Central Province, so that the necessary draft may be granted for it.

Salaams to you and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Vali of the Province of Busreh.

(L.S.) Hussein Jelal.

عدد ٢٣ الى جناب الاجل الاكرم قائم مقام الكويت صاحب السعادة حضرة الشيخ مبارك باشا آل صباح المحترم

سعادتلو افندم حضرتلري

بعد السلام عليكم وافتقاد شريف خاطركم بنديانه كما لا يخفى جنابكم انه قبلاً كان يخصص لقائم مقامية الكويت مقدار معين من التمر باسم تخصيصات سنوية واخيراً حيث تبدل شكل الحكومة واصبحت ادارة مشروطة فقد صار تحويل المخصص السنوي من التمر كما مر ذكره الى معاش شهري ومقداره ثلاثة آلاف وثلاثمائة وثلاثة وثلاثين غرش وذلك باسم قائم مقامية الكويت فبناءً عليه تكرموا بافادة الذي من اي محل تريدون قبض المعاش المحرر مقداره اعلاه من صندوق قضاء الفاو او من مركز الولاية لكي يصير اعطاء الحوالة المتعلقة بذلك

والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته ٧ شوال سنة ١٣٢٨

والي ولاية البصرة

حسين جلال

251. 274

Dated 14th Shawal 1328.= 18th Oct. 1910.

(234)

To

His Excellency Hussein Jelal Bey,

Vali of the Province of Busreh.

page 273

After paying deep respects to Your Excellency, I beg to state that I had the honour to receive your august order dated the 7th Shawal 1328 No. 23, in which you state that the annual stipend of a quantity of dates granted by the High Government to the Shaikhs of Koweit was a reward for our financial and physical services according to the contents of the royal Firman and that as the form of government has changed, it has been converted into a monthly salary of 3333 piastres. Let it be known to Your Excellency that this stipend was abandoned years ago, and that we continue to pay devotion and render services honorarily. So I see no necessity to trouble the Treasury, and you will, Inshallah, constantly find me punctual in doing services. I have a strong hope that you will always pay me your high regards, and in any case the command and decision rest with Your Excellency.

(signed) Ruler of Koweit. Chief of its tribes.

حضرة صاحب العطوفة والي ولايت البصرة الجليلة حسين جلال بك المحترم دام بقاه

بعد تقديم واجب الاحترامات لمقامكم العالي هو ازدياد الطاعة والخلوص تناولت امركم العالي المورخ ٧ شوال وعدد ٢٣ ومضمونه ان المخصصات السنوية التي احسنت بها الحكومة السنية على مشايخ الكويت مقدار من التمر مكافات لخدماتنا المالية والبدنية حسب المنطوق الفرماني الملوكي ومن حيث تبديل شكل الحكومة احيل الى معاش شهري ثلاثة الاف وثلاثمائة وثلاثين غرش فيكون معلومًا لدى عطوفتكم ان هذي المخصصات تركت منذ سنين ونحن قائمين بواجب العبودية والاداء الخدمات مجانًا فادعى الى تكلف الخزينة الجليلة حاجتًا وانشاء الله تعالى دائمًا ترونا مداومين على ايفاء الخدمات واستاقوي دائمًا تشملونا بانظاركم العالية وعلى كل حال الامر والارادة لعطوفتكم اندم

في ٤ شوال ١٣٢٨

حاكم الكويت ورئيس قبائلها

252.

Kuwait

[*Confidential.*]

No. 2895, dated Bushire, the 30th October (received 8th November) 1910.

From—Lieutenant-Colonel P. Z. Cox, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

no copy

In amplification of my telegram, No. 1009, dated 28th October 1910, I have the honour to submit copies of the letters in which the new Vali of Basrah, Hussein Jelal Bey makes to the Shaikh, and the latter politely rejects, an offer of a salary of £400 per annum, as Kaimmakam of Kuwait, payable monthly.

(1) Vali to Shaikh Mubarak, No. 23, dated the 11th October 1910.
(2) Shaikh Mubarak to Vali, dated the 18th October 1910.

No. 23, dated 7th Shawal 1328=11th October 1910.

From—Hussein Jelal, Vali of the Province of Basrah,

To—The Hon'ble Kaimmakam (Deputy Governor) of Kuwait, Shaikh Mubarak Pasha Al-Subah.

After greeting and enquiries after you, I beg to state that, as it is not hidden from you, a certain quantity of dates had formerly been allotted to the Kaimmakam of Kuwait as an annual stipend. As the form of government has changed recently and a constitutional era has dawned, the aforesaid annual stipend of dates has been converted into a monthly salary amounting to 3,333 piastres, and this is intended for the Kaimmakam of Kuwait (lit. this is in the name of).

Under these circumstances, please let me know from which source you wish to receive the above-mentioned salary, whether from the Treasury at Fao or from the Central Province, so that the necessary draft may be granted for it.

Salaams to you and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.

Dated 14th Shawal 1328=18th October 1910.

From—The Ruler of Kuwait, Chief of its tribes,

To—His Excellency Hussein Jelal Bey, Vali of the Province of Basrah.

above

After paying deep respects to Your Excellency, I beg to state that I had the honour to receive your august order, dated the 7th Shawal 1328, No. 23, in which you state that the annual stipend of a quantity of dates granted by the High Government to the Shaikhs of Kuwait was a reward for our financial and physical services according to the contents of the royal firman, and that, as the form of government has changed, it has been converted into a monthly salary of 3,333 piastres. Let it be known to Your Excellency that this stipend was abandoned years ago, and that we continue to pay devotion and render services honorarily. So I see no necessity to trouble the Treasury, and you will, Inshallah, constantly find me punctual in doing services. I have a strong hope that you will always pay me your high regards, and, in any case, the command and decision rest with Your Excellency.

S. G. P. I.—1601 F. D.—12-11-10—44.

253.
276
(236)

no. 1226 of 1910.

H.M.'s Consulate for Arabistan Mohammerah
dated 1st Nov. 1910.
Copy of the undermentioned communicat ion forwarded t
the Political Agent Kuwait with the compliments of
the undersigned.

A.T. Wilson
Lieut. I.A.
Acting Consul

Consul to P.R. no. 1223 of 1st Nov 1910. without
enclosures 1 & 2

W 162
NOV 11 1910
C. 162

254.

277

237

No. 1324 of 1910.

H.B.M's Consulate for Arabistan,

Mohammerah, 1st November 1910.

From,

Lieutenant A. T. Wilson, I.A.,

H.B.M's Consul for Arabistan,

To,

The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

Bushire.

Sir,

In continuation of the correspondence ending with my No. 1314 of the 29th instant, I have the honour to forward further correspondence on the subject of the attack on the Faddaghiyeh lands of the Mishri family.

(1). Consul, Basrah to Ambassador, No. 61 D/ 26.10.10.
(2). Consul, Basrah to Consul, Mohammerah, D/ 28.10.10.
(3). Wali of Basrah to Shaikh of Mohammerah.

2. As regards enclosure 3, the letter from the Wali of Basrah to the Shaikh, I have told Mirza Hussah, who is unofficially in charge here, during the absence of the Shaikh at Nasiri, to issue orders for the arrest of all the persons named by the Wali, as well as of any others who may be suspected of complicity: those who are Turkish subjects to be handed over to the Turkish authorities in due course, those who are Persian subjects, or in regard to whose nationality there is any doubt, to be imprisoned by the Shaikh at Failiyeh.

3. I have also recommended the Shaikh to apply officially to the Wali for the surrender of the men wanted in connection with the Kuwait piracy case of 29th June 1910, at the same time as he sends his reply to the above letter

255
278
238

letter.

4. Mirza Hamzah informs me that most of the person named in the Wali's letter are not in Persian territory, but have taken refuge with Shaikh Naghaimish at Ma'amir, and elsewhere in Turkish territory. In some cases, no--tably that of Haji Sultan's son, he altogether disbelieves the allegations made by the Wali, and also points out the great discrepancy between the quantities of dates alleged to have been taken to Persian territory, compared with the quantities alleged to have been taken to points on the Turkish side of the river.

5. The Shaikh is not likely to be back in Mohammerah for at least a fortnight, and until he returns it is improbable that very much will be done. Mirza Hamzah is afraid to take active measures himself, as he fears that the new Wali may raise the question, mentioned not long ago by Sulaiman Nasir Bey, of his status as a Turkish subject, and seek to seize his property in Basrah on the ground that he has become a servant of a foreign Government without a permission of the Turkish Government. Such action would probably be quite illegal, but the possibility is enough to hamper Mirza Hamzah's freedom of action considerably.

I am sending copies of this letter to His Majesty's Minister, Tehran, H.M's Consul, Basrah and to the Politica Agent, Kuwait.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd) A. T. Wilson Lieutenant,

H.B.M's Acting Consul for Arabistan.

256.

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Translation of a letter from the Wali of Basrah to the Shaikh of Mohammerah dated 20th Shawal 1328 received 29th Shawal 1328 (sic) (22nd November 1910).

(239)

Note - from the numbering of this letter it is plain that it was written subsequent to the 25th Shawal as letters of that date bear a lower number than this letter.

After compliments,

I regret to inform you that from enquiries that I have made it appears that on Tue/sday night on the 6th of the Turkish month, the following occurrence took place at 8-30 Arabic.

Ma'tug Thaghar, a fellah of Mishri, of a tribe living opposite Ma'awiyeh, with the assistance of your dependants, Bakhsh and his son Ba'aksn, Nasir, Ma'tug, 'Abdi, Hussein ibn Haji Sultan, also Hamed ibn 'Abad of Ma'awiyeh, Ishaq ibn Jasbar, Hajim ibn'Abdullah Khashman, Aalan ibn Dahab, 'Abid Bahbr, Karaim ibn Atiyeh, Sa'd ibn Ahmed Sa'id, and their companions, together with the former fellahs of Muhammed Mishri, and accompanied by 1,000 armed and a like number of/un-armed men, attacked the lands of Muhammed al Mishri which are known as Hajiyeh in the district of Daddaghiyeh: they brought 800 bellams and lighters with them.

They cut the telegraph wire first of all: then they commenced to fire at Nasir bin Farraj - the agent of Muhammed Mishri, and the watchmen who were with him, and forced them to fly in terror. They went to the Turkish police post in Dawasir, and took refuge.

After the attack, 150 Karas of dates were taken from the Hajiyeh lands of Muhammed bin Mishri, and 150 karas from the Ma-awiyeh portion, 110 karas from the waqf portion, 140 karas from the 'Abid portion.

Under the superintendence of one of your dependants

these

257 280 (240)

these quantities were taken across the river.

Nasir ibn Mutrad, one of your dependants, took the dates he had stolen to Manyuhi.

'Abdi, Hussain ibn Haji Sultan, Karaim ibn Ahyab, and Ishaq ibn Jauhar with their friends took the stolen dates to Qasbat-al-Hassar.

Najim ibn 'Abdullah Khaghnan, a Fallah of Muhammad ibn Mishri took the dates he had stolen to Dawaib on Turkish soil.

'Abdul Rabba took 600 tins of syrup of dates to your side of the river, and has not been seen since.

Mutrad and Khaghnan took a mare and 150 Liras and Rs.50/- and various articles of value and went to Qasbat-al-Hassar.

Ma'tuq al Khaghnan, a Fallah whom Mishri had evicted took 90 kurus from the Khaghnan lands and went to Na'asir in Turkish territory.

Karaim ibn Ahyab and 'Atiyah ibn Muhammad and Fahad and Ibrahim ibn Rashid, Musa ibn Ma'ashi, Muhammad ibn Mutrad - all former fallahs of Mishri, and evicted by him, took 180 kurus of dates and 90 tins of syrup of dates from the Khazin lands, and fled to Nasir Mutrad's house in Manyuhi. 180 kurus were taken from the Ahyab lands, with 60 tins of date syrup, and removed to Manyuhi and Qasbat-al-Hassar. Part of this batch is in the house of ibn Hamdi in Kuwait, he is the agent of Shaikh Mubarak and of Ahmad Pasha Zohair.

From the lands of Ishaq 180 kurus were taken to Thamir and Manyuhi and Qasbat-al-Hassar.

The loot of Mahmud ibn Salman of Ma'asiyeh, and his friends and of those who are the fallahs of Salih ibn Ibrahim amounted to 60 kurus of dates and 30 tins of date syrup; all this was taken to Daran in Turkish territory.

Anbar and Karaim and the fallahs of 'Abdullah bin Mishri took from the lands of Karaim 60 kurus dates and 90 tins of date syrup - all this to Manyuhi.

The

The total looted according to the above list was :

dates	1,190 karas.
Syrup of dates...............	786 tins.
also	100 Liras
R..........................	80

Such occurrences and unprovoked disturbances are a source of great sorrow to me, and are really almost incredible in these times.

There is no doubt that Your Excellency does not approve of such deeds and indeed no one of any sense would do so.

The matters of the highest importance , and is a caus of great disturbance to the public peace and safety which it is the duty of both of us to safeguard.

I would ask you to give this matter your careful attention and give strict orders to the insurgents named above to be seized and handed over to me to be dealt with judicially.

Also please have the stolen property which has been deposited in your territories handed over to me without delay.

I have taken steps to lay hands on stolen property found in Turkish territory.

-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-:-

259.

282

242

No. 1250 of 1910.

H.B.M's Consulate for Arabistan,

Mohammerah, 5th November 1910.

Copy of the undermentioned telegram is forwarded to the Political, Agent, Kuwait, for information and with the compliments of the undersigned.

A.T. Wilson Lieutenant,

H.B.M's Acting Consul for Arabistan.

Telegram No. 77 dated 6th November 1910 from His Majesty's Consul, Mohammerah, to His Majesty's Minister, Tehran.

W.W.S
NOV 11 1910
C.163

260.

283

(243)

Telegram.

From ------ His Majesty's Consul, Mohammerah.

To -------- His Majesty's Minister, Tehran.

No. 77.

Dated 6th November 1910 , from Bushire .

(P).

Shaikh and Turks.

no copy

Please see Col. Cox's telegram 287. Consul Basrah reports Wali told by Turkish Government to do nothing. Representa--tions will be made by Turkish Embassy Tehran on the subject Please see my despatches 91 and 94 giving all details.

no copies

Mr. Consul Crow says wali's attitude most unsatisfactory that when ordered not to attack Mohammerah he tendered his resignation and that popular opinion Basrah favours evicted fallahs who are considered to have been treated unfairly.

Repeated Bushire by post.

Wilson.

CONFIDENTIAL.

261.
284
(244)

No. 3187 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 30 December 1910.

A copy of the undermentioned communication is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information.

By Order,

S. Crosthwaite Captain,
Second Assistant Resident.

- -

Resident to Foreign. Letter No. 3186 dated 30 December 1910, with enclosure.

W 7678
DEC 9 1910
C. 179

262

(245)

Kuwait 285

W 10-25

FEB 20 1911

replaced original typed copy

[*Confidential.*]

No. 3186, dated Bushire, the 3rd (received 13th) December 1910 (Confidential).

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. Z. COX, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Calcutta.

"The Book of Midhat Pasha" by Ali Hyder bin Midhat Pasha.

Thinking that it may be of interest, I have the honour to attach a translation of an extract from a book published in Turkish on the life of Midhat Pasha, bearing on the question of the status of Kuwait from a Turkish standpoint.

The book, of which I give the name in the margin, was lent by the late Vali of Basrah to Shaikh Mubarak for perusal at the time when they were on friendly terms, and the latter had it with him during my last visit to Kuwait and had an extract made of this passage, to which he had alluded in conversation with the Political Agent and myself.

Note. This is a translation from the Turkish copy of the book. But see also pages 5-4 et seq. in English copy of the Book.

Memorandum on the dependence of the village of Kuwait on the High (Turkish) Government and its annexation to the Province of Basrah.

The village of Kuwait is situated on the coast of a part of Nejd and is 70 miles distant from Basrah by sea, consisting of 500 houses. All its inhabitants are Musalmans and were not connected with any party. When the former Vali, Nameq Pasha, intended taking measures in the direction of their protection and annexation to the Province of Basrah, he made it a rule not to subject the inhabitants to any inconveniences, and separated their administration (from others); and when he saw that they would pay no tax and customs duty, he left them in their original state.

They are originally from Hejaz and came to this place five hundred years ago being accompanied by a section of the Mutheir. From their family was Subah the First who founded Kuwait and collected people there until the place was brought to its present state. Their present Shaikh and Headman, Abdullah-es-Subah, is of that descent.

All the said inhabitants profess the Shafai religion and the principles of their administration are based on the precepts of the Shera. Their Alem (priests) Kazis (Judges) Muftis (superior Judges) Governors and Teachers are all chosen from amongst themselves, and, as their status has proved advantageous to them since that time, they have continued to remain as an independent community, carrying out their orders by themselves.

They have no places for cultivation and their business is confined to maritime trade, and they are familiar with diving operations in the Bahrain and Oman waters. Their boats—both large and small—exceed 2,000, and most of their large vessels make voyages to India and Zanzibar being engaged in maritime trade. This commuuity adopted a peculiar flag for its boats, which in a short time went abroad under that colour for commercial purposes. Some time after they did not feel secure against foreign highhandedness; and in order to ensure the safety of their voyages and travels, some of them used the English Flag, while some others flew the Flemish (Dutch) colours, as they felt constrained to hoist those flags. In these circumstances they took measures to associate with and preferred cases for foreign protection, and they were the first who asked for it. Whereas this practice imperilled the Province of Baghdad and whereas great dangers threatened the position of Basrah in particular, Midhat Pasha, who was at Basrah, perceiving those dangers,

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summoned their headman, lectured them and explained to them the situation and the dangers, giving them advice and describing the things from which it was necessary for them to abstain. They agreed that he should furnish them with a "Sanad" (bond) in which he might assure them of the non-recovery of customs duty and other taxes, and appoint Abdullah-es-Subah to the post of Kaimmakam (Deputy Governor) of Kuwait (stating that) he should remain as the head of the Government of that country and that the Kazis and the Muftis should retain their posts, the administration should be carried on on the old principle and formal orders should be obtained from the Porte to the Authorities (in the above sense) and Hutti Sherifies for the Imams (high priests) of the principal mosques. The requisite formalities were observed for declaring their dependence and they at once discontinued foreign flags and changed them for Ottoman colours.

S. G. P. L.—1980 F. D.—19-12-10—44.

No. 3183, dated Bushire, the 2nd (received 13th) December 1910 (Confidential).

From—Lieutenant-Colonel P. Z. Cox, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

I have the honour to forward, for information, a copy of a letter addressed to the Customs, Bushire, sometime ago and recently shown confidentially to Captain Birdwood by the Director. It will be seen that the local (Persian) Agent of the Russian Steamship Company, and Societe de Tombac, at Bushire, invites the Bushire Customs Administration to treat Kuwait as a portion of the Ottoman Empire.

Monsieur Constant stated that, in replying to this communication, he had ignored the question raised regarding the status of Kuwait and confined himself to giving the actual amounts exported. He added that Kuwait was not treated by the Customs Administration as an Ottoman Port.

Agence de la
Société du Tombac
à Bouchir.

Bouchir,
Le 24-11 Aôut 1910.

No. 96.

À Monsieur le Directeur Provincial des Douanes, Bouchir.

Monsieur,

Par sa lettre du 27 juillet dernier la Direction Générale de la Société du Tombac à Constantinople me fait part que d'après les informations qui lui ont été fournies des expéditions de tombac se font de Bouchir et des autres ports persans pour Kuwait qui est consideré dit-elle comme faisant partie de l'Empire Ottoman et conséquemment assujetti aux formalités usuelles.

J'ai l'honneur de vous prier de vouloir bien me renseigner sur le realité de cette question et l'importance des envoies de tombacs pour le port de Kuwait.

Veuillez agréer, Monsieur le Directeur Provincial, les assurances de ma considération très distinguée.

Le Gérant,

MIRZA ALI REZA KHAN.

S. G. P. I.—1979 F. D.—10-12-10,—44.

CONFIDENTIAL.

264.
288
(247)

No. 3234 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 4th December 1910.

A copy of the undermentioned communication is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information, with reference to his letter No.C.52 of 3-8-10.

page 211

By Order,

S. Crosthwaite Captain,
Second Assistant Resident.

- -

Resident to Foreign. Letter No. 3233 dated 4th December 1910 with enclosure.

W 70 28
DEC 9 1910
C. 180

No. 3235 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 14th December 1910.

A copy of the undermentioned communication is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Kuwait, for information, with reference to his letter No.68 of 3-8-10.

By Order,

Captain,

Second Assistant Resident.

- -

Resident to Foreign. Letter No. 3235 dated 14th December 1910 with enclosure.

Kuwait 2655 289

No. 3233, dated Bushire, the 4th (received 13th) December 1910 (Confidential).

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL P. Z. COX, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

page 211

With reference to my letter No. 2164, dated 12th August 1910, on the subject of the registration of Shaikh Mubarak's Fadaghia property, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, the translation of a letter or telegram purporting to be addressed by the Inspector of Registration, Constantinople, to the Superintendent of Registration, Basrah, a copy of which has come into Shaikh Mubarak's hands.

2. The letter is of interest as it quotes in detail the Vali of Basrah's telegram referred to by Captain Shakespear in paragraph 3 of his letter No. C.-52, dated 3rd August 1910, and it is in the latter connection that the Shaikh furnishes us with the copy.

page 211

Office of the Inspector of
Registration.
Letter No. 7.

To

The Superintendent of Registration,
Basrah.

The date grove which the Kaimmakam of Kuwait, Mubarak es Subah, Pasha, wishes to purchase from the notables of Basrah (*viz.*) the Al-Zoheir necessitated an enquiry. An enquiry was made by the Ministry of Interior and a reply was received from the succeeding Vali; and the telegrams and memorandum received from the Ministry of War contained certain remarks which spoke for themselves. The telegram stated that the date grove which Mubarak-es-Subah, Pasha, wishes to purchase and which he wishes to register in the name of his four sons, comprises seven thousand seven hundred and twenty-four Donums and its value is forty-eight thousand odd Turkish Liras; that the greater part of the value has been paid and the aforesaid Mubarak Pasha wishes to register his four sons in the roll of registered individuals, and wishes, after taking out Turkish passports, to settle the registration in their favour, before the formalities for the enlistment for his two sons in the Army are observed.

For this reason, it is not desirable to delay the registration and in view of the reports received the postponement and delay of the registration are inadvisable, and compliance with the request of Mubarak-es-Subah will lead to enhance his sincerity and friendliness. This is what we understand, and the tone of the communications received is favourable to this (course) and it is desirable that compliance should be made in due time. If the said parties are registered in the roll of registered individuals and took out Turkish passports and if two of them underwent enlistment, you should execute the registration of the date grove in the names of his sons. An authority has been given by the Ministry of Interior according to their communication and to the proceedings of the special committee of deputies (which was formed) in connection with this. And the Vali and the office of registration had been advised as per memorandum to do the needful and to report the result.

MOHAMED RAFIQ BIN TOWFIQ,
for *Assistant Superintendent of Registration.*

Dated 29th Jemadi-el-Awal 1328.
25th Mays 326 (8th June 1910).

181 F. D.—S E—34-46—May.

Very CONFIDENTIAL.

266.

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(249)

No. 3349 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 20th December 1910.

A copy of the undermentioned Despatch is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit.... for information.

By Order,

S. Crosthwaite Captain,

Second Assistant Resident.

- -

Asiatic Turkey and Arabia Confidential. Section 4, October 17th i.e. Despatch from Sir E. Grey to Sir G. Lowther No. 312 dated the 17th October 1910.

(Received with Foreign Department Endorsement No. 2500-E.A. dated 24th November 1910).

We/23/10

C. 184

267.

291

250

Asiatic Turkey and Arabia. (Oct. 17)

Confidential. Section 4.

(32854)

No. 1.

Sir Edward Grey to Sir G. Lowther.

(No. 312).

Foreign Office, October 17, 1910.

Sir,

I have received Your Excellency's despatch No. 603 of the 22nd August and other reports, in which you enumerate repeated instances of the arbitrary and vexatious treatment of British subjects in Asiatic Turkey, and, further, draw my attention to the number of incidents of political aggression, all tending to a disturbance of the status quo, which have recently marked the conduct of the Ottoman authorities in the region of the Persian Gulf.

It will be convenient to deal first with the injustice to which British commercial interests have been subjected.

In July the representative of Messrs Lynch and Co. at Baghdad was informed that certain property of his firm would, under a municipal regulation, be demolished as insecure and dangerous. The British Consul-General found that the property, which he took an early opportunity of inspecting, was perfectly safe.

A few days later a notification was made to Messrs Abdul Ali, a British-Indian firm, respecting the projected demolition, on similar grounds, of their principal shop and the arbitrary expropriation of the site, which is a valuable one. This property was likewise found, on inspection, to be in excellent condition, and in no wise dangerous.

The British Consul-General hereupon visited the President of the Municipality and protested vigorously against the wanton destruction of property on a false pretext of danger to the public. The conclusion drawn by his Majesty's Consul-General was that

265.

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(251)

that, in the absence of funds to meet the cost of legal expropriation, the procedure complained of had been adopted.

Notwithstanding that Your Excellency had in the meantime made urgent representations through the Minister of the Interior, an extensive demolition of Messrs Lynch's property, including their Chief office, was begun on the 7th August, and more recently His Majesty's Consul-General has reported that the property of British subjects already demolished and threatened means a loss of some £ 5000; while he learns that it is proposed to enforce further expropriations, at great loss to many British subjects resident in Baghdad.

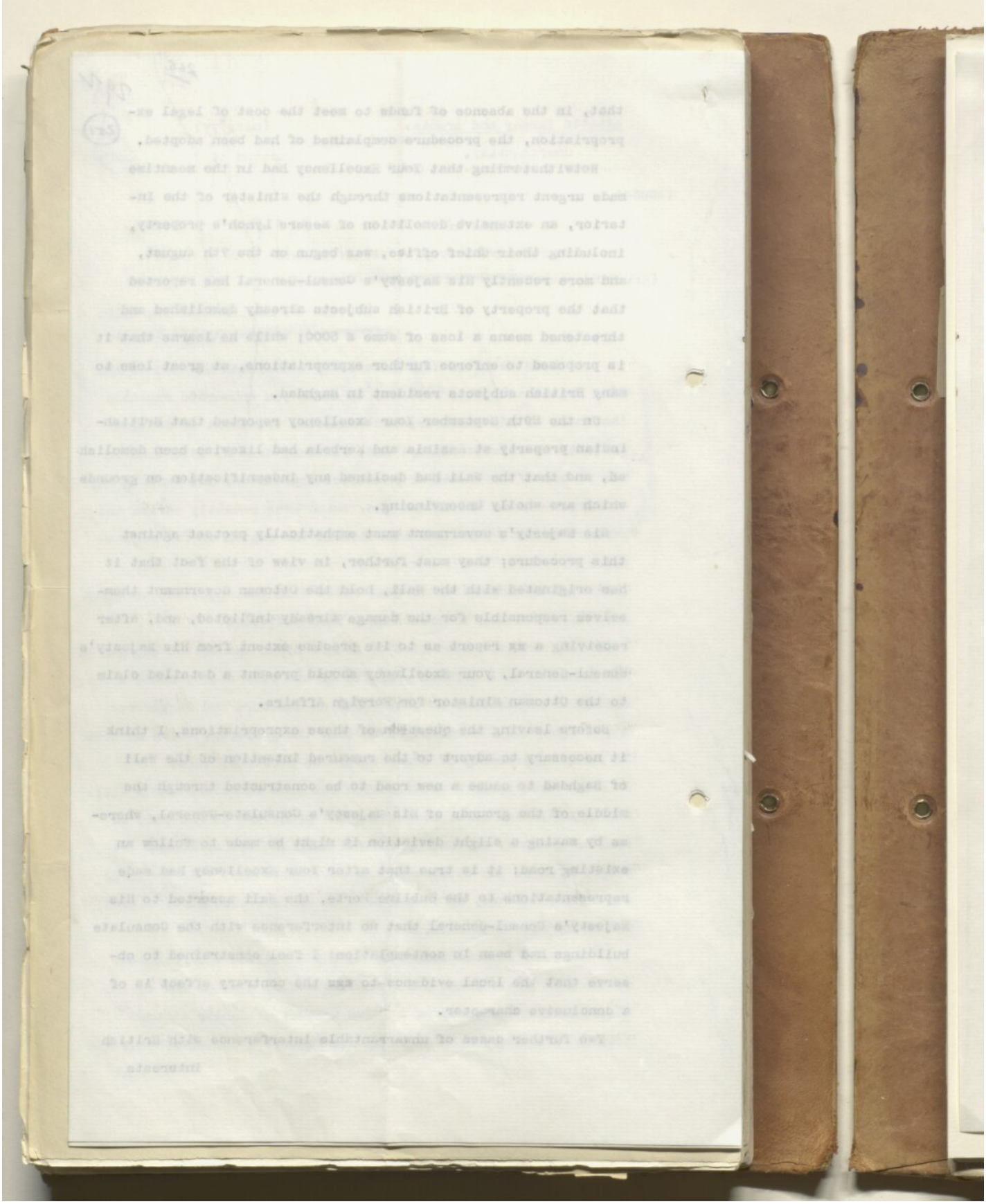
On the 29th September Your Excellency reported that British-Indian property at Kazimia and Kerbela had likewise been demolished, and that the Wali had declined any indemnification on grounds which are wholly unconvincing.

His Majesty's Government must emphatically protest against this procedure; they must further, in view of the fact that it has originated with the Wali, hold the Ottoman Governmnnt themselves responsible for the damage already inflicted, and, after receiving a ~~xx~~ report as to its precise extent from His Majesty's Consul-General, your Excellency should present a detailed claim to the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Before leaving the question of these expropriations, I think it necessary to advert to the rumoured intention of the Wali of Baghdad to cause a new road to be constructed through the middle of the grounds of His Majesty's Consulate-General, whereas by making a slight deviation it might be made to follow an existing road; it is true that after Your Excellency had made representations to the Sublime Porte, the Wali asserted to His Majesty's Consul-General that no interference with the Consulate buildings had been in contemplation: I feel constrained to observe that the local evidence to ~~xxx~~ the contrary effect is of a conclusive character.

Two further cases of unwarrantable interference with British

interests



interests have also recently occurred at Baghdad:-

In the first of these cases Messrs Abdul Ali, the British-Indian firm already referred to, were suddenly ordered to sell the ice manufactured by them at a reduced rate of 10 paras a kilogramme instead of 20 paras an oke, their usual charge: I understand that owing to non-compliance with this arbitrary order the local authorities have threatened to close by force two ice factories belonging to British Indian subjects.

In the second case two British firms, Messrs Blockey Cree & Co. and Messrs Blaney and Solomon, were informed that they must transfer their factories to the outskirts of the town, on the pretext of a regulation 46 years old concerning steamengines and boilers, whereas Your Excellency has pointed out to me, the factories in question are run by smokeless oil-engines, which are in no respect dangerous. There is clearly, therefore, no ~~xxxxx~~ ground whatever for the application of the regulation to these factories, and its enforcement would be wholly unreasonable and very burdensome to the owners.

Your Excellency should insist upon satisfaction being accorded to all these British subjects and afford to them the full and effectual protection of His Majesty's Government, who cannot admit a continuance of the oppression to which they are being subjected. You should add that His Majesty's Government cannot be expected to acquiesce in the helplessness expressed by the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs with regard to the illegal proceedings of the Baghdad authorities, and that such helplessness on the part of the central authorities amounts to an abdication of Government.

I have already furnished Your Excellency with full instructions on the subject of the forcible and unjust intervention of the Ministry of Public Works and in the dispute which has arisen between the Smyrna-Aidin Railway Company and the Societe des Quais: it is matter for grave concern to His Majesty's Government that, apart from this particular incident, the Board of this

Company

Company should be compelled to complain that "for the past two years the attitude of the Ministry of Commerce and Public Works has been increasingly overbearing and harassing", and that they should have claimed the active protection of His Majesty's Government "not only on account of the important material interests involved in the present case, but also in view of the systematic and continuous attempts which are now being made to encroach on the Company's rights and privileges as laid down in its Conventions with the Imperial Ottoman Government".

I pass now to the incidents of political aggression.

On the 30th May 1909, I informed Your Excellency that the Turks had some time previously occupied the island of Zakhnuniyeh which lies some 10 miles south-east of Ujair; that they had hoisted the Turkish Flag on a fort, and had arranged to keep a guard there; that the Shaikh of Bahrein had protested to His Majesty's Government against this occupation, his father having built the fort, where he used to keep a garrison fifty years ago; and that the island, which had no permanent inhabitants, had been regularly visited for purposes of fishing, by natives of Bahrein.

I do not propose to enter upon a detailed review of British relations with the Shaikh of Bahrein and the Trucial Chiefs, since the matter is one which in no wise concerns the Ottoman Government. I need simply observe that those relations have been the foundation of the maritime peace which has now been maintained in the Persian Gulf for well-night a century.

Moreover, as Your Excellency is aware, in November and December 1871 the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs himself gave assurances that his Government had no intention of attacking or obtaining any supremacy over Bahrein or the independent tribes on the coast of the Persian Gulf, and similar assurances had already repeatedly been given to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

But apart altogether from the assurances of the Ottoman Government to which I have referred, Ujair, in the district of El

Katif

271.
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Katif, is the most southerly point which His Majesty's Government have ever recognised as being under Turkish influence on the coast of the Persian Gulf.

In these circumstances Your Excellency was instructed to request the Ottoman Government to withdraw the garrison from Zakhnuniyeh on the ground of terminating a disturbance of the status quo; and your representations were to be based not only on the title of the Shaikh of Bahrein to the island, but also on the fact that it is situated some distance to the south-east of Ujair, the furthest limit of Ottoman jurisdiction.

Although the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs informed Your Excellency that the garrison had been withdrawn in June 1909, it has since been reinstated in the island, and, according to the latest reports, has quite recently been reinforced; and the Ottoman authorities in regard to this question seem set upon disregarding your Excellency's repeared representations on the subject.

I have accordingly to instruct Your Excellency to request that orders may be issued for the immediate and permanent withdrawal of the garrison.

The next point upon which I desire to address Your Excellency is the treatment to which the Shaikh of Koweit has been subjected by Suleiman Nazif Bey, the late Wali of Bussorah, with regard to the property which he purchased in the course of last year, from Ahmed Pasha-el-Zoheir at a price of £T48,000 which was duly paid down. When however Shaikh Mubarak took steps to register the transfer at the Turkish Land Office he was informed that he must register himself as a Turkish subject: such a demand in reference to a transfer of land had never before been made.

Your Excellency should inform the Minister for Foreign Affairs that His Majesty's Government regard the conduct of the late Wali in this matter as an attempt to modify the status quo with regard to Koweit, which is the basis of the understanding

between

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between His Majesty's Government and the Ottoman Government in this important question.

It appears, moreover, from reliable and circumstantial reports, that the late Wali tried by tortuous methods to instigate the vendor of the Fedaghia property to impugn Shaikh Mubarak's title. The vendor remonstrated with the Wali, pointing out the absurdity of repudiating the sale in the face of the title deeds held by the Shaikh, which, besides the signature of the vendor, bore those of all the Bussorah notables as well as that of the British Consul.

His Majesty's Government rely upon the Ottoman Government to bring about a satisfactory settlement of the registration of this property; they have no wish to raise difficulties with regard to the past conduct of an official who has been recalled; but I must add that the incident is vexatious and serves to deepen the impression entertained by His Majesty's Government of ill-will on the part ofthe Turkish Officials.

In his recent dealings with the Shaikh of Mohammerah the conduct of the late Wali of Bussorah has been in the highest degree violent, vindictive and unjust.

It is known to His Majesty's Government from reports received from His Majesty's Consul at Bussorah that there were no disturbances of importance on the Shatt-el-Arab last winter, that the Shaikh recently exercised his good offices in the endeavour to promote a reconciliation betwennthe Wali and an important arab chief of Turkish nationality, and that the Shaikh has, in fact, carried his conciliatory attitude towards Nazif Bey so far as to acquiesce, without complaint in the destruction of houses belonging to him at Bussorah. It is further known through His Majesty's Consul at Mohammerah that Shaikh Khazal has endeavoured to promote friendly relations between Nazif Bey and the Wali of Pusht-i-Kuh.

Such was the situation at the end of March last when the Shaikh and the Wali appeared still to be on the best of terms. Shortly afterwards, however, the Wali brought against the

Shaikh.

Shaikh, certain accusations into the nature of which it is unnecessary to enter in detail, since Your Excellency is already familiar with it from the correspondence which has passed on the subject. No serious proof of the truth of these accusations was ever offered, nor was any opportunity ever given to the Shaikh to disprove the charges brought against him, which he was perfectly able and willing to do. On the contrary, the Wali totally ignored a friendly and conciliatory letter addressed to him by the Sheikh, expressing the intention of proceeding to Bussorah to discuss the matters in dispute, and, further, on the Shaikh's arrival there on the 18th April, most unjustifiably and discourteously refused to receive him at all.

The Shaikh had no alternative but to return to Mohammerah. On the 24th April the Wali issued circular instructions to the local officials under his jurisdiction summarily to remove all headmen dependent on the Shaikh, and on the 25th April during the latter's absence at Ahwaz, the Turkish gun-boat "Marmaris" acting on orders of Nazif Bey, shelled the village of Zain belonging to the Shaikh, which was afterwards looted and destroyed by Turkish soldiers. In the course of this attack the house of the Shaikh's mother was burnt, and one of his wives died from shock caused by the bombardment.

On the 26th April the Wali, in two official letters addressed to the Persian Consul at Bussorah, went so far as to threaten action against Mohammerah itself in the event of failure to comply with his demands.

In spite of the injury and provocation which he had received, Shaikh Khazal continued to be guided by the advice of His Majestys Government by maintaining a conciliatory attitude, by restraining his Agents and supporters from any aggressive action, and by adopting their suggestions with respect to the wording of his communications with the Wali. The latter, on the contrary, displayed strong resentment at the attempts made by His Majestys Consul at Bussorah, under instructions from His Majesty's

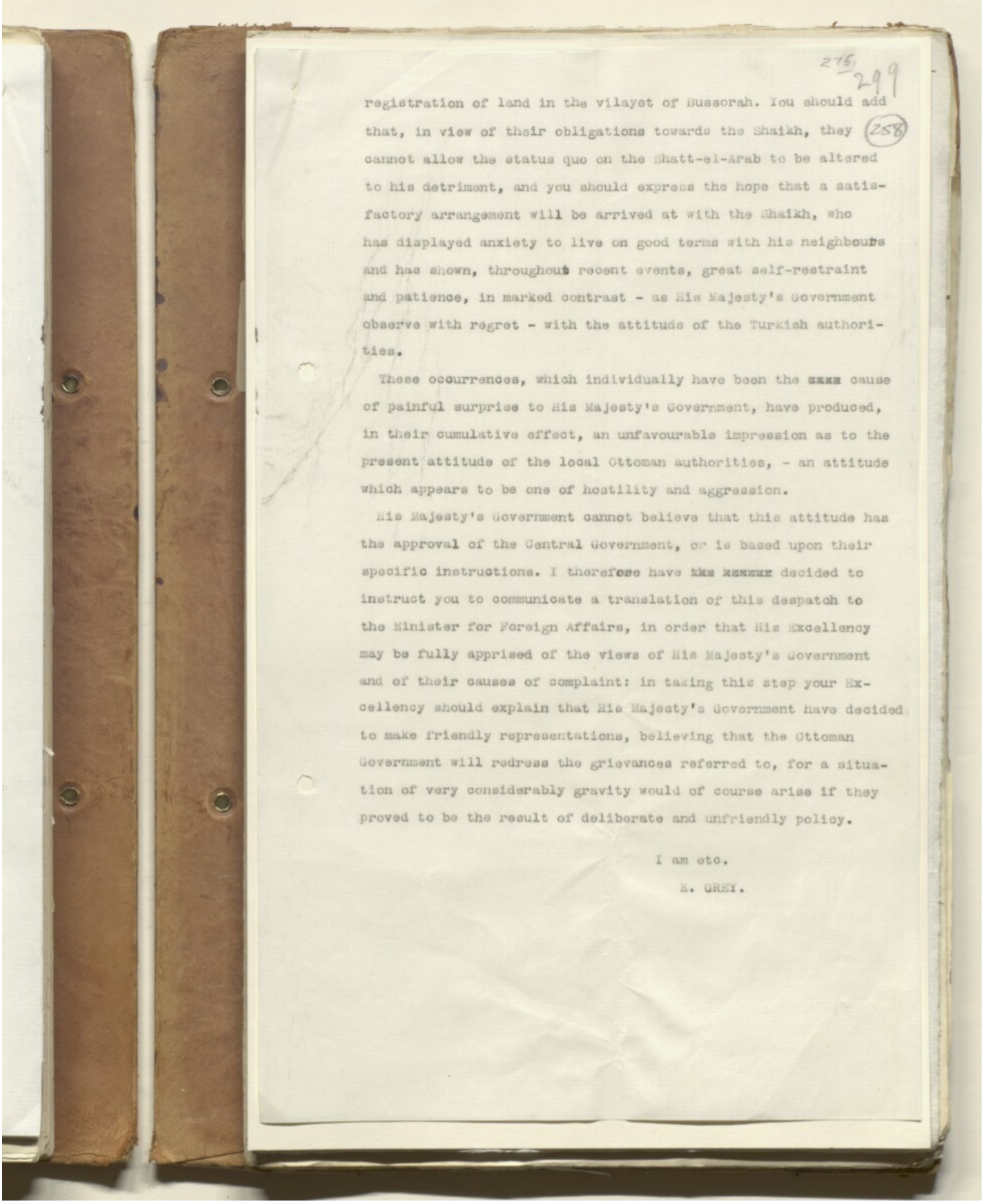
Government

Government, to promote an understanding between him and the Shaikh.

Nazif Bey, it is true, finally accepted Shaikh Khazal's explanation and agreed to consider the incident closed, but he unconditionally refused to express regret for the death of the Shaikh's wife and the destruction of his mother's house, or to pay any compensation for the losses suffered by the Shaikh in consequence of the unjustifiable bombardment of Zain. Further, at the very moment when he was considering the Shaikh's explanations with which he owned himself satisfied, his Agents were occupied in subjecting the Shaikh to further petty annoyances, in the matter of the renewal, contrary to the Wali's promise, of the lawsuit against the servant of Mirza Hamza, the Shaikh's Agent at Bussorah, of the unjustified destruction, for the third time since the dispute between the Shaikh and the Wali began, of the former's house property on the Ashar Creek and of the raid on Mirza Hamza's house and the seizure of his property, on the ground that he had disregarded a summons for debt which had been issued against him. There can be little doubt that Nazif Bey was the real instigator of these vexatious proceedings.

A further injustice to the Shaikh has now been committed by the decree recently issued by the Sublime Porte forbidding the registration of land in the vulayet of Bussorah in the name of the Shaikh or his representatives, a measure which appears to be actually contrary to Ottoman law.

Your Excellency should bring these facts to the notice of the Turkish Government, and inform them that His Majesty's Government are bound, by agreement with the Shaikh, to use their good offices on his behalf in the event of a dispute with a foreign Power, that they have most carefully considered the circumstances of his recent dispute with the Wali of Bussorah, and can see no justification whatever for the harsh and aggressive action of the latter, especially in the matter of the attack on Zain, nor for the recent decree of the Porte regarding the registration



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registration of land in the vilayet of Bussorah. You should add that, in view of their obligations towards the Shaikh, they (258) cannot allow the status quo on the Shatt-el-Arab to be altered to his detriment, and you should express the hope that a satisfactory arrangement will be arrived at with the Shaikh, who has displayed anxiety to live on good terms with his neighbours and has shown, throughout recent events, great self-restraint and patience, in marked contrast - as His Majesty's Government observe with regret - with the attitude of the Turkish authorities.

These occurrences, which individually have been the cause of painful surprise to His Majesty's Government, have produced, in their cumulative effect, an unfavourable impression as to the present attitude of the local Ottoman authorities, - an attitude which appears to be one of hostility and aggression.

His Majesty's Government cannot believe that this attitude has the approval of the Central Government, or is based upon their specific instructions. I therefore have decided to instruct you to communicate a translation of this despatch to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in order that His Excellency may be fully apprised of the views of His Majesty's Government and of their causes of complaint: in taking this step your Excellency should explain that His Majesty's Government have decided to make friendly representations, believing that the Ottoman Government will redress the grievances referred to, for a situation of very considerably gravity would of course arise if they proved to be the result of deliberate and unfriendly policy.

I am etc.

E. GREY.

276. 300

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23/12/10

SUPPLEMENTARY DIARY

19.12.10

TO KUWAIT ONLY

Ahmad Pasha Zuhair is reported by telegram to have died at Constantinople on about 15th Dec.

Mira Hamza states that there is no one of the family whois capable of succeeding him, and his heir is not known.

It seems probable that the death of A. Pasha will involve Shaikh Mubarak in further difficulties and may assist the Turks to carry out their reported design of buying back theland from Ahmad Pasha for the same price that he sold it to Mubarak.

A T Wilson Lieut. I.A.
Acting Consul.

My dear Shakespear,

I would have wired this to you to Fao c/o Lobo if I had been able, but I see you have no code, so I could not do so.

yours sincerely
A T Wilson

277.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 3400 of 1910.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 28 December 1910.

A copy of the undermentioned communication is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information.

By Order,

Captain,
Second Assistant Resident.

- -

Letter from Sir G. Lowther to Sir E. Grey, No. 720, dated the 10th October 1910.

(Received with Foreign Department Endorsement No. 2629-E.A. dated the 7th December 1910).

JAN 6 - 1911

C. 1.

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261

Asiatic Turkey and Arabia.

Confidential.

(37539).

No.1.

Sir G. Lowther to Sir Edward Grey (Recd. October 17th).

No. 720.

Pera, October 10, 1910.

no copy

Sir,

I have received your despatch No. 289 dated 27th ultimo, forwarding certain confidential correspondence on the subject of the difficulties experienced by the Shaikh of Koweit in connection with the transfer of his property at Fadaghia. In the course of this correspondence His Majesty's Agent at Koweit brings forward the suggestion that "the recognition by the Turkish authorities of Koweit as a distinct nationality would go far towards a permanent settlement of the present as well as the larger question of the whole status of Koweit".

This suggestion appears to me to be one that would never be accepted by the present Ottoman Government, with its chauvinistic tendencies. Last year, when the more moderate-minded Hilmi Pasha was Grand Vizier, he found it impossible even to accept the suggestion made by this embassy that Mubarak-es-Sabah or his son should be registered on the "tapu" as "inhabitants of Koweit". A proposal to admit the existence of Koweit as a separate nationality would consequently be still more obnoxious to the Sublime Porte.

I have etc.

GERARD LOWTHER.

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303
262

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 47 of 1911.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 7 January 1911.

A copy of the undermentioned communication is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit..... for information, with reference to this office Endtt. No. 3349 dated 20th December 1910.

page 290

JAN 16 1911

c. 3

By Order,

S. Crothwaite Captain,
Second Assistant Resident.

- -

Letter from the India Office to the Foreign Office dated the 28th October 1910.

(Received with Foreign Department Endorsement No. 2714-E.A. dated the 17th December 1910).

280.
304
263

(Copy).

India Office,
Whitehall, S.W.
28th October 1910.

Sir,

With reference to the letter of your department of 26th October, I am directed to say, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that the Secretary of State for India observes with regret that His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has been authorised to defer communication to the Turkish Government of Sir E. Grey's despatch of 17th October.

Viscount Morley ventures to suggest that Sir G. Lowther's telegram No. 232 of 24th October contains no considerations that could not have been foreseen when the despatch in question issued. It must have been anticipated that the despatch, whenever, communicated, would be made the occasion for an explosion of anti-British feeling; and the fact that one such explosion has already been manufactured in connection with the wholly irrelevant question of the British Note to the Persian Government seems to His Lordship to be rather a reason why His Majesty's Government should persist in their firm policy.

Their object, as Lord Morley understands it, is less to secure an adjustment of the particular incidents in question than to impress upon the Turkish Government in a manner that shall preclude further misunderstanding the importance which they attach to their interests in those regions and their determination to see that they are respected. The incidents are indeed, in themselves, of varying degrees of magnitude; but their cumulative effect is very considerable, and the force of our protest is proportionately greater. His Lordship apprehends that this advantage will be almost wholly lost, and the probability of His Majesty's Government attaining their object greatly diminished, if the general protest is long deferred and if His Majesty's

Ambassador

(Copy).

India Office,
Whitehall, S.W.
28th October 1910.

Sir,

With reference to the letter of your department of 26th October, I am directed to say, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, that the Secretary of State for India observes with regret that His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has been authorised to defer communication to the Turkish Government of Sir E. Grey's departure of 17th October.

Viscount Morley ventures to suggest that Sir G. Lowther's telegram No. 522 of 24th October contains no considerations that could not have been foreseen when the departure in question issued. It must have been anticipated that the departure, whenever communicated, would be made the occasion for anti-British feeling; and the fact that one such explosion has already been manufactured in connection with the wholly irrelevant question of the British Note to the Persian Government seems to His Lordship to be rather a reason why His Majesty's Government should persist in their firm policy.

Their object, as Lord Morley understands it, is less to secure an adjustment of the particular incidents in question than to impress upon the Turkish Government in a manner that shall preclude further misunderstanding the importance which they attach to their interests in those regions and their determination to see that they are respected. The incidents are indeed, in themselves, of varying degrees of magnitude; but their cumulative effect is very considerable, and the force of our protest is proportionately greater. His Lordship apprehends that this advantage will be almost wholly lost, and the probability of His Majesty's Government attaining their object greatly diminished, if the general protest is long deferred and if His Majesty's Ambassador

281.
305

Ambassador proceeds by means of piece-meal representations in the meantime, while the policy of financial starvation, recommended as an alternative by Sir G. Lowther, seems no more likely to be successful in Turkey than it has been in Persia. (264)

Lord Morley is conscious that there may be other considerations, lying outside his competence, which outweigh those here suggested. But as he was consulted regarding the drafting and issue of the despatch he has ventured to make these remarks solely from the point of view of the interests which he is entitled to represent.

I have etc.

(sd) R. Ritchie.

The Under Secretary of State,
Foreign Office.

282.
306
(265)

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 217 of 1911.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 25 January 1911.

A copy of the undermentioned extract is forwarded with compliments to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information, with reference to this office endorsement No. 3400 dated 28th December 1910.

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By Order,

S. Crosthwaite Captain,

Second Assistant Resident.

Extract from a letter from Sir G. Lowther to Sir E. Grey, No. 797, dated the 31st October 1910.

(Received with Foreign Department Endorsement No. 2773-E.A. dated the 28th December 1910).

W 7028
JAN 27 1911
C.7

(266) 284 / 307

Extract from a letter from Sir G. Lowther to Sir E.Grey No. 797, dated the 31st October 1910 (Received on the 11th December with Political Secretary's letter No.47, dated the 25th November 1910).

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page 291

With reference to your despatch No.312 of the 17th instant and your telegrams Nos. x and 323 of the x and 26th instant, x x x x x x x x

As regards the Shaikh of Kuwait's lands at Fadaghia, the information as to details, etc, supplied by His Majesty's officers in those regions differs considerably from that in the hands of the Minister of the Interior, and the latter proposes waiting the arrival in Constantinople of Ahmed Pasha-es-Zuhair, who is expected in a few days.

x x x x x x

283 (266A)

H.C. Please look up the Mohammerah diaries & see when they reported the death of Ahmad Pasha Az-Zuhair: about 2 months ago I think. Is the actual date of his death given?

W 27 1/11

P.A.

He is said to have died on about 15th December 1910 at Constantinople.

MAF 28/1/11

285.
208
267

KOWEIT POLITICAL AGENCY RECEIPT No. 113 Date 28/2/11 PERSIAN GULF.

No. 193 of 1911.

FROM

Captain L. B. H. Haworth, I.A.,

H. B. M's. CONSUL, for Arabistan.

To

The Political Agent,

KUWAIT.

Dated Mohammerah, 24th. February 1911.
25

SIR,

I have the honour to forward, herewith, for your information, copies of despatches, dated 28th. December 1910 and 6th. January 1911, respectively, and accompaniments, from the Embassy, Constantinople, to H. M.'s Consul, Basrah, respecting the policy of the Committee of Union and Progress with regard to Mesopotamia.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient Servant,

L. Haworth.

Captain, I.A.,

H.M.'s Consul for Arabistan.

W 7675
MAR 9 - 1911

(*Confidential.*)

No. 500, dated Bushire, the 28th February (received 14th March) 1911.

From—Lieutenant-Colonel P. Z. Cox, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Honourable Lieutenant-Colonel Sir A. H. McMahon, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

No. 166, dated 20th February 1911.
No. 176, dated 22nd February 1911.

I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, copies of two letters from His Majesty's Consul, Mohammerah, and their enclosures, namely, translations of certain newspapers published respectively in the Turkish Paper *Tanin* and the Persian Paper *Junub*, and dealing with the politics of this region in a spirit of marked hostility to Great Britain.

below

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No. 166, dated the 20th February 1911.

From—Captain L. B. Haworth, His Majesty's Consul, Mohammerah,

To—Lieutenant-Colonel P. Z. Cox, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

I have the honour to forward for your information a copy of an article which appeared in the newspaper *Junub*, dated 24th December 1910, regarding the affairs of Arabistan, and which is supposed to have emanated from a Mohammerah correspondent. The Shaikh is taking steps to find out if he can who is responsible for it.

TRANSLATION.

(Accuracy not guaranteed.)

Extract from the newspaper Junub, *dated Tehran, the 21st Zil-Hadj 1328, No. 1.*

(To the Editor)

If you want news of this side, thank God, everything is in order. The only thing to be considered is that, owing to the lack of protection and troubles consequent thereon, the people find no other way out of it but to become British subjects. From the month of Rajab one thousand and odd Arabs have taken their "Tazakarah" (passport or registration certificate) from the British Consul. A few applications from those who have become British subjects have reached the Consul, saying that though they have become British subjects they have no certain means of protection and therefore, solicited some assurance on the subject. Many of those who have turned British subjects or serve the British, Musalmans or non-Musalmans, openly induce other men to become British subjects. Men also for their own comfort try to obtain "tazakarahs" for themselves in numbers. Of these, Meshedy Ahmed, Peshkar (Nazir) of Haji Rais-ut-Tujjar has paid Rs. 500 to obtain British certificate, but yet he has not been accepted. He got a reply that 80 men should at one time apply for the "tazakarah" when they will get the document. He is now trying to pay Rs. 1,000. Those who have obtained the "tazakarahs" are endeavouring to create trouble. It is possible that they must have received instructions accordingly (from the British). One of the instances that would have led to trouble was the keeping open of their shops on the day of death of Hazrat Amir (Ali). The "Hukumat" (Deputy Governor) sent his men to tell those who had opened their shops to cease their work on that day, lest it should lead to trouble but they sent back the "Hukumat's" men with abuse, and beat one of them. Of those who induce people to become British subjects are Hussein Jamadar and Yusuf. First of those who became British subjects and sold the name and respect of their children were the above two men, though their elders were all in the

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service of the "Hukumat," and they earned their bread in the Persian land. Because Hussein Jamadar was in the service of the "Hukumat" he had the chance of thinking himself over all. This "Nimak-baharam" (dishonest man) whose flesh and bones have received their sustenance from Persia has only for the sake of his own freedom gone to "kafirs" (those who have no religion) and become their slave, though he was for a great time Deputy Governor at Bander Buzieh, Mashur and Hindijan. This Hussein Jamadar openly in the town and among Arabs and their Shaikhs induces people to his aim. On the 26th Ramazan in (Mohammerah town) Bazaar he paid a visit to son of Haji Arak Khan in the shop of Khudadad clothseller. He said to the youth, "Your father has under him 4,000 Tufangchis and why should you be such a 'Baighairat' (shameless creature). With this pomp and money why should you pay 90 per cent. on dates etcetera, and why should you fear a black (negro) Ghulam of the Sardar (Shaikh of Mohammerah) when you see him. Come you and your followers, let us go to the British Consul and I will obtain for you 'tazakarah' as British subject. Then you will have to pay taxes 10 per cent. and not 90 per cent. When this is done the Sardar (Arfa') will fear you and not you the Sardar." The youth replied that he feared he might not be accepted or that the matter might not be approved, otherwise that he was much obliged so that he might be freed from unbearable trouble. Hussein Jamadar said, "Why should you not be accepted? Do you not know that a few of your own tribe went to the Consulate and under false name of Bahreinis obtained the 'tazakarah.' Let us go to the Consul and do you bring with you the names of people of your tribe, and say to the Consul that as he has freed many of your tribe from trouble he might do the same in your case and that of the remaining of your tribe, and that you will pay everything on account of telegrams etcetera for the purpose. I will take the 'tazakarahs' for you: you should be at ease. This change is very good for you especially, because Abadan is now the property of the British and you also are a resident of Abadan Island."

Now the Oil Company, in accordance with a political object, is continuously bringing Indians and Europeans into Arabistan under the pretext that they are employés. They have also an establishment in the Shatt (River) of Bahmanshir. As soon as they get permission to bring steamers in the River then everything is finished. The Agents and Ministers (of Persia) should be delighted to see this because they will have rest then. Sits, there is a copy of a tour history with Saiyid Muhammad Taqi, Agent of Durat-ul-Najaf Journal, which he obtained in Mohammerah and if you will look into it you will find out whether the Company is an Oil Company or a Political Company. The Company's employés are all sepoys, soldiers and officers of the Army. Note the goods which they import and see if they are for oil or for bombs. If any of you who has a good knowledge of Arabistan comes, and goes into Company's affairs he will find the actual state of affairs, otherwise you will shortly hear that the 16,000 miles of Arabistan have become similar to the 400 Islands of Bahrein and surroundings. I lease send an emissary to go into the affairs of the Oil Company and also that of Lynch, which latter Company have acted dishonestly with the Customs, give trouble to natives and exceed their powers; then you will come to know the facts. If both these firms go beyond their rights the Agent should inform Tehran that arrangements be made to stop them and that the "Hukumat" should also not allow such things. Jenab (means Sardar Arfa') gets 5,000 Tomans annually as "commissionery" (?) from the Oil Company, not that he gets this amount from the (United) Kingdom or its people. For God's sake enquire from the Minister of Foreign Affairs and tell him that if at any time the Oil Company or others ask for any fresh rights he should first look at the original Agreements and see what rights he can grant, according to those documents, after full enquiry into their requests from the men of this part of the country or from one who knows the affairs fully. In the original Agreement it is clearly shewn that foreigners' boats or steamers should not ply on the Upper Karun and how is that the Foreign Ministry has allowed the Oil Company to run their steamers on the Upper River. As regards the Shatt of Bahmanshir, orders are to the effect that neither Persian nor foreign boats should ply there and how is it that the Oil Company's steamers work there now, without permission.

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Also why should the Oil Company run a lightning (Motor) Car from Shatt Bahmanshir to Masjid Suleiman which is about 30 farsakhs (105 miles) and travel in two hours the whole distance, though we have no sarbazes, man-o-war or anything of the sort in that part of the country excepting one customs boat. For the sake of your own honour please do not keep this province without your Agent and do not allow the Political Company to go further than what they have done up to now.

As regards Braim and Abadan we sent various telegrams (to the effect that the Company should not act without permission), but no attention was paid and the Company have done what they desired. Come and don't allow the mouth of Shatt Bahmanshir to go into the hands of foreigners, without (the presence of your) emissary. In any case please ask the Ministers or request the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to send an Agent or appoint a man, to always remain on the move and inspect the doings of the Oil Company.

Remarks by *Junub*.

We will give our opinion regarding the Oil Company, Lynch and the unwarranted acts of aggression of the British in our next edition.

No. 176, dated the 22nd February 1911.

From—Captain L. B. Haworth, I.A., His Majesty's Consul, Mohammerah,

To—Lieutenant-Colonel P. Z. Cox, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

I have the honour to forward herewith, for your information, copies of despatches, dated 28th December 1910 and 6th January 1911, respectively, and accompaniments from the Embassy, Constantinople, to His Majesty's Consul, Basrah, respecting the policy of the Committee of Union and Progress with regard to Mesopotamia.

A copy has also been sent direct to the Political Agent, Kuwait.

Translation of a part of an article on Basrah by Ismail Hakki, Deputy for Baghdad, which appeared in the *Tanin* of 26th December 1910.

In these parts there is no place so unhealthy and at the same time so important both commercially and politically as Basrah. Whatever may be said to the contrary, the political balance of Irak has shifted to Basrah during the last thirty years. At Ashar the first thing that strikes the eye is five or six fairly big steamers, but all fly the English flag. At whatever part of Basrah you look, a thousand different things connected with England will immediately strike your attention, and you will feel how deep the claws of English influence have sunk into our country's flesh. The very hammals (street porters) adapt to their own dialect the naval and other technical terms which have been arabicised from the English, and decline and conjugate them.

(Through ?) Though Shaikh Khazal, who holds sway in the part of Persia which extends from Kuwait and Mohammerah to the left bank of the Shatt-el-Arab, England is practically squeezing the sandjak of Basrah with a hand of iron, and by exercising an unceasing pressure, she is striving to catch it in a fowler's net. To such an extent (according to a rumour which I have not been able to thoroughly examine) that she has even begun to confer British nationality or protection upon tribes both in the Mohammerah district at Ibade (*sic.*) for instance and in the Basrah district. As her influence is stronger in Persian territory, the rumour is of more weight for that part. In either case the harm to the Ottoman empire is evident; for the protected tribes on the further side of the Shatt-el-Arab both can, and continually do, pass over to the Ottoman side and under the encouragement of the protection they have obtained give rise to all sorts of difficulties.

Above received from the Embassy, Constantinople, date 28th December 1910.

Copy forwarded to His Majesty's Consul, Mohammerah, in Mr. Crow's demi-official No. 16 of 8th February 1911.

F. C. CROW,
His Majesty's Consul, Basrah.

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Dated Constantinople, the 6th January 1911.

From—George T. Clerk,

To—His Majesty's Consul, Basrah.

I am directed by His Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires to transmit to you herewith copy of a despatch which he has addressed to His Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs respecting the policy of the Committee of Union and Progress with regard to Mesopotamia.

Foreign Office No. 15, dated the 4th January 1911.

Mr. Marling requests you to inform His Majesty's Consul at Mohammerah of the contents of this despatch.

No. 15, dated Constantinople, the 4th January 1911.

From—C. Marling,

To—The Right Hon'ble Sir E. Grey, etc., etc., etc.

I have the honour to enclose translation of two articles recently published in the *Tanin* by Ismail Hakki Bey, Deputy for Baghdad, giving his views as to the policy Young Turkey should pursue in Mesopotamia.

One of Ismail Hakki's brothers, Hamdi Bey, resides at Baghdad and is one of the leaders of the local branch of the Committee, while a second brother, Hikmet Bey, is on the staff of Reouf Pasha, the Ottoman Commissioner in Egypt. He is one of the Committee's "experts" on foreign affairs and their specialist on matters connected with the Arabian peninsular, Egypt, etc. Last year he was at one time the Committee candidate for the Ministry for Foreign Affairs but, perhaps fortunately for Young Turkey, has not yet been appointed to that post. His ideas, as shown in these two articles, are both crude and violent. He advocates disarmament on the same lines as in Albania, Macedonia and Syria, the prevention of arms smuggling by sending Turkish ships to the Persian Gulf and the "cutting off" of the poisonous trade by putting an end once and for all to the seditious existence of Kuwait or by at least blockading it by land and sea." The first of the latter two alternatives would seem to mean that Turkey should militarily occupy Kuwait by a *coup de main*. Ismail Hakki Bey and his friends are no doubt animated by the best of intentions but past experience of Albania, Macedonia, and the Hauran leads us to expect they will act with haste, rigour and violence. The inevitable result will be a disaffected Arab population and, as it is well to lay the blame anywhere except in the proper place, that is, the wrong policy of the Committee of Union and Progress, their disaffection is to be set down to English intrigues and machinations aimed at transferring the Caliphate to some Arab centre under British influence.

The Committee imitating the French revolution in its hunting down and destruction of aristocrats, evidently intends meting out a similar treatment to the Arab Shaikhs. Ismail Hakki Bey would "punish the principal Shaikhs on the spot" probably by court martialling and hanging some of them, would exile in virtue of the arbitrary decisions of secret courts-martial, the bulk of the Shaikhs of the second degree, and would reduce the small Shaikhs to the position of headman and the tribesmen to that of Egyptian fellaheen. By applying the military steamroller he would complete the levelling down process within a year, so as to defeat the fell designs of foreigners, who have interests in Mesopotamia and are looking on it "with hungry eyes." Ismail Hakki Bey further talks of the "Political meaning impossible to conceal in the importation into Arak of so many arms of English manufacture," but conveniently ignores that the distributing centres are Jibuti and Maskat rather than Kuwait, that England has gone to enormous trouble and expenditure to stop the arms traffic and that she even risked a conflict with France in her attempt to check arms running at Maskat, while he has evidently little notion of the extreme difficulty of preventing smuggling along the El Hassa coast line not to mention the Shatt-el-Arab, Khor Abdullah, etc. The frequent mentions of "English, Englishmen and English arms" are calculated to poison the minds of the Turkish public and to convey the impression of Great Britain's hostile designs on Mesopotamia. He is evidently desirous of focussing public attention on Kuwait and Mohammerah. His account of, and the inferences he draws from, the encounter between the forces of Shaikh Mubarak and Sadun

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Pasha may be described as fantastic. That the result of his propaganda on the subject of Kuwait has been effective is shown by the Grand Vizir's remarks on that question to Sir Henry Babington Smith and there seems little doubt that he and his committee friends intend creating a "Kuwait question." Hakki Pasha's remark that "articles in the press must not be taken too seriously" cannot itself be taken too seriously. For Ismail Hakki Bey's articles have been published with the consent and approval of Hussein Jahid Bey, Djavid Bey, Minister of Finance and other such, whose influence under a Committee Government is greater than that of the Grand Vizir.

Ismail Hakki Bey's remarks about Mohammerah are interesting and instructive as shewing the Committee point of view in such matters. He would induce Young Persia to allow Young Turkey to despatch troops to punish and "level" Shaikh Khazal, the "rebel against Persia." The value of his assurance that the Turkish Troops would not remain at Mohammerah may be guaged by the prolonged stay of the Ottoman forces that years ago occupied Passova and other districts in the neighbourhood of Urumia.

His plan of "extirpating all the Shaikh's interests" in the Basrah region of seizing his property and repressing his agents with the greatest severity, while Persia will not protest and England cannot, opens up a very unpleasant vista of rather serious friction between us and the committee Government of Young Turkey.

I am sending copies of this despatch and its enclosures to His Majesty's Consular Officers at Baghdad and Basrah, with instructions to the latter to inform His Majesty's Consul at Mohammerah of its contents.

I have, etc.,

C. MARLING.

Inclosure in Mr. Marling's despatch to Foreign Office No. 15 of 4th January 1910.

The *Tanin* of December 24th contains a long article by Ismail Hakki Deputy for Baghdad, on the "Causes of Unrest in Irak." After speaking of the manner in which that part of the Empire was neglected for centuries, and of the venality of the officials whose sole aim was to fill their own pockets, he continues.

It was not only through the weakness of the army and the confusion prevailing in the Government that the tribes became so daring. The uninterrupted importation of arms from Kuwait reinforced them and increased their boldness. The erroneous, self-seeking policy adopted by most of the Valis of Basrah under the old regime not only caused a blaze in Irak, but also set fire to the Kuwait question, which tends to disturb even our foreign relations, and the terrible effects of which have increased daily during the last seven or eight years.

The first thing to do is to strengthen the army, a step which is now being taken. Not only must the VI Army corps be kept there permanently, but we ought also to send there a well organised punitive force.

Again, as all the brigands have gathered along the banks of the rivers it is essential that armoured gunboats should be sent, both to keep order on the rivers and to transport troops.

For a long time our expeditions have attacked loyal tribes, while brigands have been allowed to return to their tribes. Justice and policy demand that punishment should be meted out to the real offenders; for innocent tribes, seeing they are punished anyhow, take to brigandage when opportunity offers.

Arms must be collected and the arms traffic stopped; but this policy must be applied to all the tribes, or its effect will be *nil*. Many of the tribes are

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willing to give up their arms, if the Government will protect their lives, property and rights but as long as their neighbours are armed they are compelled to carry weapons in self-defence.

"To prevent the importation of arms our ships must always be present to stop smuggling in the Gulf of Basrah, and the poisonous trade must be cut off either by putting an end altogether to the rebellious life of Kuwait or by at least blockading it by sea and land."

It goes without saying that as all these measures do not come within the scope of the existing laws, martial law ought to be proclaimed in a few sanjaks which are hot beds of sedition. But let me not be misunderstood. There is no comparison possible between town life and the life of the Bedawin in Irak. The town populations are quiet and obedient and can be governed by the ordinary laws, but the tribes are beyond the application of say the Criminal Code. It would be mistaken policy to proclaim martial law unnecessarily in the towns, for it would irritate the very people whose hearts we need to win whereas the town folk are strongly in favour of the severe punishment of the tribes.

If there is any opposition to the proposal for military expeditions I would repeat that the present state of affairs cannot go on. In winter Irak is more favourable to military movements than Anatolia. In a year the VI Army corps will be able to carry out its punitive duty but then it will be too late, for in that one year there may occur events so terrible that not a century will suffice to obliterate their effects.

The moral and economic importance of the Hauran to the Empire cannot be compared with that of Irak. In the first place there is political meaning impossible to conceal in the importation into Irak of so many arms of English manufacture, secondly a continuous influence is exercised from the Persian Gulf to Irak by way of the Tigris and Euphrates. It is true that there is freedom of trade but let us think of the political effects for people, who are watching their opportunity of attacks made on the life and property of a friendly Government in the course of freedom of trade. A few months ago an English engineer travelling by way of the Tigris to Hindie was stopped by a brigand and ordered to pay toll. He had nothing less than a Turkish lira and the brigand had no change but the latter—honest fellow—gave the Englishman thirty or forty bullets as change with the advice that they should be shown to Nazim Pasha.

Now it may be that not every Englishman or every engineer passing that way will be as well acquainted with the local custom. Perhaps he will say "what is this toll? I shan't pay" and will eventually "eat" a bullet. I do not wish to speak here of the diplomatic difficulties which might arise from the difficulty experienced in punishing the murderer.

As to the financial side of the question let me only say that, however much the expedition costs, it will, if successful, pay for itself many times over in regular payment of taxes, etc.

In order that the punishments may have proper effect the measures taken must be fixed and adapted to individuals. With regard to the Shaikhs who are as influential as princes or as an Indian Rajah, when the worst have been punished on the spot, the minor offenders, when their past crimes have been brought to light by courts martial, might perhaps be sent with honour to one of the islands in the Mediterranean. Shaikhs of the second degree might receive a lighter punishment; for instance it should suffice to prevent their returning to Irak for a certain length of time. As to the small Shaikhs, they will naturally sink to the level of a small Government official, to that of a moukhtar. The tribes are accustomed to rally round great names and every Shaikh of note is the centre of attraction. Now this attraction must be broken for the sake of the salvation of the Empire. There used to be tribes and Shaikhs in Egypt; now there are only fellahin. In Irak too we must put an end to the present system and leave only fellahin.

If the policy pursued by the old régime is continued rest assured that we shall lose Irak which is in a worse state than the Yemen, for foreigners who have interests there are looking on Irak with hungry eyes.

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The following is a very slightly abridged translation of an article by Ismail Hakki, Deputy for Baghdad, which appeared in the *Tanin* of 28th December 1910.

The Political Importance of Baseah, Kuwait and Mohammerah.

At present there is no order in Basrah, in the sense in which a civilised person understands the word "order." The state of affairs which had gone on for years has been changed for a few months by the zeal of the strong hand of discipline, but if the administration of Basrah goes on as at present, and if a few wasps' nests which surround the neighbourhood and are extending their poisonous influence to Basrah itself, are not completely destroyed, the brigandage in and around the town will continue until stopped by the firm and ruthless hand of a foreigner.

The few months of discipline and order which we have spoken of with praise and thankfulness are only a temporary and superficial expedient against a chronic disease. If we seek the seat of the trouble which will destroy Basrah, we shall find it limited chiefly to two spots—Kuwait and Mohammerah.

There is no writer on international law who could define the political position of Kuwait. Officially it is a Caza and the Shaikh, Mubarak es Sabah, bears a purely Ottoman title—that of Pasha, and at present he flies the Ottoman flag as a sign of allegiance, but there is nevertheless a doubt as to his position in practice. Until seven or eight years ago Kuwait had been Ottoman without doubt or fraud: but pressure was brought to bear upon it by a covetous Commandant and it took refuge with the English, and the correspondence with the Sublime Porte—for what reason we know not—carried on with England gave rise to an embarrassing situation. Now Kuwait from our point of view is Ottoman territory without doubt, but in consequence of that correspondence the Ottoman troops who were intended to inflict the necessary punishment did not enter Kuwait, and the question of letting troops enter it remained in abeyance. Finally, Mubarek es Sabah and his subjects being Sunnis, he is in a position which would not allow him to fly the British flag even if he wanted to do so. He lives in a constant state of fear, owing to the fact that he killed his brother and usurped the position of Shaikh. The Shaikh has a good deal of property, a large part of which is in the sandjak of Basrah and this gives the Ottoman Government a powerful weapon to bring pressure to bear on him whenever necessary in order to get its words harkened to and its objects fulfilled. Having realised this the Shaikh recently evinced the loyal desire to take out certificates of Ottoman nationality for himself and his sons; but owing to his own fickleness and to the encouragement of the British Consul at Kuwait he changed his mind and simply made the strange proposal to take out certificates of Ottoman nationality for his daughters.

Now as to the influence of Mubarak es Sabah (who has now become a millionaire) upon the internal state of our country.

As I have said before the sole depôt of prohibited arms in Irak is Kuwait. Moreover Mubarak Pasha—as is usual in ignorant countries—follows a double faced policy; in order to show loyalty to England also he is not content with merely importing rifles and cartridges into the country, but with the object of showing that he is capable by himself of chastising all the tribes he sets currents flowing towards the interior and kills and robs men of the most important tribes.

Last year this man, having collected from all sides a force of four thousand horsemen and more than ten thousand Arabs, attacked Sadun Pasha and his men; but rumour says that Sadun Pasha, with about four thousand men of the Montific and az-Zafir tribes whom he had managed to get together, killed some four thousand of the enemy and put them to flight. It is worth noting that at that very moment an English officer appeared, photographed the slain and took pictures of the battle field. Rumour adds that Mubarak subsequently tried to make out to the English that this rout was a complete victory but, owing to the evidence of the British officer, the English avoided being deceived ("responsibility relies on him who relates").

On gaining this victory Sadun Pasha and his subjects went as far as Kuwait and wanted to plunder Mubarek's goods and treasure; but according

to his own account he gave up the project in order not to involve the Government in political difficulties. Nevertheless the men of Mubarek finding the as-Zaffir tribe alone three or four months ago, revenged themselves by seizing several thousands of their camels and withdrew.

The tribes attacked and plundered are gathered under Ottoman allegiance and those who attack them also fly the Ottoman flag. (Whereas a three star Ottoman flag had previously waved over Kuwait, a flag with one star has recently begun to be used. Mubarek used to explain his use of three stars as a sign of his extraordinary affection for Yildiz "a star" and "Ottomanism.") The duty of the Government therefore is to take the due of the oppressed from the oppressor and to punish the party which disturb peace and order. As to the attitude of England, we would ask whether it is just that our hands should be tried in the fulfilment of these duties.

Even if, to suppose the impossible, Kuwait is not ours, what Government is there which would allow a neighbouring State to bring 16,000 troops into her territory and to steal the property of half her subjects? The English Government has taken up the attitude of preventing us from exercising the right of punishment in our lands: could she wink at such a tax made in her territory or in a neighbouring place? Kuwait is not English (and God forbid it ever should be) so we cannot ask England to punish the Shaikh. Are these acts of brigandage to remain for ever unpunished? Is a petty Shaikh to have an authority which not even the greatest Emperors possess in our time? To protect and defend murder, robbery and plunder ill becomes a civilized, constitutional country like England: so we pass over the matter, attributing it to lack of information on the part of the Central British Government or to the excessive zeal of the local British officials.

There is another point. Our tribes who suffer these attacks will try, in Arab fashion, to take their revenge to-morrow or the next day and will surround Kuwait and put pressure upon it. Sadun Pasha told me this himself but added that he had postponed the execution of this project in obedience to the Government's orders. What diplomatic result will this inevitable and reasonable attack have? Will the British Foreign Office be able to object if an oppressor not under their protection falls in the process of retaliation into the pit he dug himself? The Foreign Office ought to think of this now; it is essential to have recourse to diplomatic means in time in order not to be confronted with a *fait accompli*.

The Mohammerah question is of a quite different nature and form. Here we are in the presence of one who is openly a Persian subject. About 10 years ago the person now called Shaikh Khazal was of no importance, all the power was in the hands of his brother Shaikh Mizal, who, knowing the tyranny and trickery of his brother, did not favour him at all. Angry at this, Khazal took refuge with a slave named Sultan, making himself out to be in danger and begging to be saved, and Sultan put an end to Mizal's life with a bullet. The dead man's supporters dispersed and Shaikh Khazal reigned alone. It is curious that, although a murderer cannot inherit from his victim, all the deceased's lands in Ottoman territory were transferred to the new Shaikh, *i.e.*, to the murderer. It is true that as the murder took place in foreign territory the murderer's guilt is not legally established in the eyes of the Ottoman Government but the question raises a very subtle point in private international law. Anyhow, since that time this Shaikh has increased his power and influence daily. On the other hand, as he knows in his conscience that he is guilty of murder he has rasied the slave Sultan to a position of trust, and is compelled to surround himself with guards. He goes now here without having 40 or 50 armed men with him. His castles and lands in Basrah too are very numerous. During the old régime, and for a while under the new, his representative in Basrah had almost as much influence as an Ambassador. Most of the Valis became the Shaikh's faithful friends and as for the officials he gained some with money and some by threats, so that there is not a whisper in Basrah to-day which does not reach Khaz'al's ears at once. On this account an extraordinary terror reigns in Basrah. No one dares to speak of the Shaikh's misdeeds in any public place for there are many of the Shaikh's spies about who carry the news to

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him. And woe to him who has spoken against the Shaikh. For in Basrah the Shaikh has bands of men and very trusted men, to whom he pays 70 or 80 pounds a month and if these men cannot manage to tear the offenders in pieces in the streets at night, they bring about his ruin in a very short time by means of all sorts of calumny, false witnesses and reports. Against these attacks the Valis themselves are impotent. It is a matter of common knowledge that those who made Basrah a sort of prison for the last Vali were men who were taking revenge on behalf of Shaikh Khazal because the Vali had taken certain measures, not against the Shaikh but against his men; upon which the Skaikh's creatures in Basrah laid a thousand different plots and caused a great difference to arise between the military and gendarmarie on one side, and the Vilayet and civil authorities on the other.

The political and international position of the Shaikh is gradually taking on another aspect. Recently he went into the interior to punish certain rebellious tribes, and rumour says that he is going to come to blows with a branch of the famous Bakhtiaris. If he wins, his influence will increase still more; if he is beaten, it is anticipated that great political difficulties will arise, for the British Government has taken the Shaikh—if not officially, at least privately—under its protection. I have seen with my own eyes a private communication from the British Consul at Basrah in which he says: "as you are aware, from events in Persia, the Shaikh of Mohammerah is under British protection": whereas in our eyes Shaikh Khazal and his tribes are Persian subjects and it would naturally be unpermissible for either ourselves or Persia to allow any act or circumstance which might disturb the *status quo*. It is strongly suspected that if Shaikh Khazal were defeated England would openly declare a protectorate over the Shaikh of Mohammerah and even actually take over the policing of the whole of Shiraz and Persian Arabia urging lack of security and danger to her commerce as an excuse. When Russia has established troops in the North of Persia on the pretext of restoring order it will of course be impossible for England to remain with arms folded in the South.

As an instance of the increasing favour shewn by England to the Shaikh we may note the fact that last week he was given the order of the K.C.SI. with the attendant ceremonial and pomp. A Major belonging to the British army was especially sent with this order, and the Shaikh, acting exactly like a Rajah, gave the order a salute of guns.

The results of this state of affairs fall on us with a terrible shower. In our opinion none of these acts of protection is official. If once we hear that they are official, we must protest with all our might and prevent them by all possible means. Persia has been divided, it is true, into English and Russian spheres of influence, but both parties have undertakén to safeguard the territorial integrity of Persia.

Now a declaration of protection and an act of interference in the internal order of Persia would be diametrically opposed to the maintenance of its territorial integrity. In the second place the Gulf of Persia and the Shiraz and Hamadan districts were considered as a neutral zone when the division into spheres of influence took place and the effect of the Anglo-Russian agreement on those parts must be considered nil; so that in acting in that fashion the British Government would be acting contrary to agreement, not only towards Turkey, Persia and the other powers, but also with regard to Russia. Thirdly, the Anglo-Russian agreement was not confirmed by Persia or any other interested power, and was not communicated, I think, to the Ottoman Government; so that from our point of view it is officially non-existent. Therefore, the question of safeguarding those Ottoman rights which are injured at Mohammerah and of extinguishing the fire of revolt which runs in an unceasing stream from Mohammerah into Ottoman territory is a private matter between the Ottoman and Persian Governments. The Russian Government's confirmation of the clause in the agreement by which British rights in the Persian Gulf are to be safeguarded cannot affect any third party—cannot therefore bind the Ottoman Government and the safeguarding of British rights cannot possibly mean the trampling under foot of Ottoman rights.

What steps must the Ottoman Government take to punish this Persian neighbour of hers? There are only two alternatives; either for Ottoman troops to go and put out the fire or for us to take such defensive measures that when the fire comes it may not burn our land. This needs official diplomatic negotiations with the Persian Government. That Government ought to consent to our troops going and punishing a man who is a rebel against Persia too, and to our presenting Persia with a quiet, submissive country free from all traces of tyranny and brigandage. We should do this not merely out of friendship for Persia but to ensure our internal peace and order, so we should not expect Persia to be grateful. But will Persian diplomatists be able to show sufficient patriotic daring as to consent to such a *fait accompli*? Let them rest assured that our troops have not such habits as not to leave the place they have entered. When we have given our word we will keep it.

If this measure, which would probably be exposed to diplomatic difficulties, cannot be carried out, then we must have recourse to the second scheme—the defensive. First of all, all the Shaikh's interests must be extirpated, and as "property is a part of life" his lands, property and goods must be seized and all his men, however high their social position, must be followed up and repressed with the greatest severity. The Persian Government is not so wanting in skill and political knowledge as to complain on behalf of a Shaikh who, from its own point of view, is deserving of punishment: and as for England, she has no official legal standing to warrant her opening her mouth to attack us for repressing the Shaikh's followers. No attention has ever been paid to the communications in the form of "advice" made to us by the British Consul on behalf of the Shaikh's men, and the Consul has been told that such communication rested on no right or authority.

On the other hand, in order that our rights of sovereignty should be manifest on the Shatt-el-Arab, and that those men, of whom half belong to the Shaikh, should be prevented from flowing over to the Ottoman side of the river, there must be no lack of our gunboats and warships both on the Shatt-el-Arab and in the Gulf of Basrah generally. We have to-day many ships which are of no use in Greek waters, but which would play an important role in the Persian Gulf and on the Shatt-el-Arab. If these ships are sent we shall need a dock and a repairing yard for them.

It has been seen, then, that the question of the Gulf of Basrah and the Shatt-el-Arab is so delicate and urgent as to require that a plan should be drawn up by the civil, military, naval and foreign department officials combined and carried out by them conjointly. We have shown how terrible the danger is. There is not a moment to lose. Rest assured that neglect and indifference may very shortly put quite a different political aspect on Basrah and the surrounding parts.

S. G. P. I.—3019 F. D.—18-3-11—44.

Kowait

291.

319

273

No. 1141, dated Bushire, the 30th April (received 8th May) 1911 (Confidential).

From—Lieutenant-Colonel P. Z. Cox, C.S.I., C.I.E., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

With reference to the correspondence ending with my telegram No. 1225, dated the 25th December 1910, I have the honour to report that according to Bahrain information confirmed by Shaikh Esa and the Shaikh of the Dowasir, Abdulla bin Hassan, at my recent visit to Bahrain, no Turkish soldiers have visited the Island of Zakhnuniyah during the past winter.

385 F. D.—S E.—180-182—June.
Exd.—P. M. M.

272
320
274

DRAFT—(For Approval).

POLITICAL ~~RESIDENCY, PERSIAN GULF.~~ Agency, Kuwait

No. D/O

CONFIDENTIAL

Dated 8th August 1911.

To,

Political Resdt,

BUSHIRE.

My dear Colonel,

Whilst chatting with the Sheikh to-day he told me that the Wali at Basra had written him an appeal for a subscription on account of the recent fire in the Government offices in Constantinople. The fire referred to is that mentioned in Reuters towards the end of July. The Sheikh had the letter read over to me and it was the usual sort of subscription appeal, especially on the ground of the Khalif and Islam, etc.

The Sheikh then sadi he had sent the Wali £T 500/- but didn't suppose a quarter of it would reach Constanintople. I merely remarked that he had been very generous, to which he said "what can I do when he writes to me a begging letter like that".

I don'tthink we need fash ourselves about it, though no doubt it is the Wali's method of keeping up intercourse with the Sheikh.

For information

yours sincerely,

W.H.I.S.

9,660-3-10

CONFIDENTIAL.

POLITICAL AGENCY KOWEIT

293

8. 8. 11. (275)

My dear Colonel,

Whilst chatting with the Sheikh to-day he told me that the Wali at Basra had written him an appeal for a subscription on account of the recent fire in the Govt offices in Constantinople. The fire referred to is that mentioned in letters towards the end of July. The Sheikh had the letter read over to me & it was the usual sort

of subscription appeal,
especially on the ground of
the Khalif, Islam etc.
The Sheikh then said he had
sent the Wali £T. 500/- but
didn't suppose a quarter of it
would reach Constantinople!
I merely remarked that he had
been very generous, to which he
said "what can I do when he writes
me a begging letter like that."
I don't think we need fash
ourselves about it, though no

doubt it is the wali's method of keeping up intercourse with the Sheikh.

294

321

(276)

For information.

Yours sincerely

W.H.T. Shakespear

15/8/11

W 7675 AUG 18 1911

H.C. Take extract for Diary below & return. W.H.T.

My dear Shakespear

Secure form of reply. I think you might mention in Diary somewhat as follows:

"Shaikh Mubarak recently received a begging letter from the Wali of Basrah, as a good Mohammedan, appealing for a subscription

327

for reconstruction of Gov. Offices in Constantinople destroyed by fire in July.

The Shaikh said he felt it difficult ~~forward to send~~ to respond a contribution in view of the terms of the appeal. and sent the Wali £T. 500/-. "

PR.

Have nothing particular this week. Hope you are all well. Shiraz situation still difficult and here re-commencing increase of guard.

PR.

(277) 295. 323

PRIVATE.

BASRALX

BASRA,

August 19, 1911.

W 72-28
AUG 25 1911
C.86

My dear Shakespear,

The following is an extract from a letter which I have sent to Colonel Cox to-day:-

"Seyid Talib, the local deputy, called on me to-day and in the course of conversation stated that he meant, towards the end of this month, to return the visit of the son of the Sheikh of Koweit, who had called on him at the Nakib's house at Sibiliat, shortly after his return from Constantinople. He asked me whether he should return the visit in the "Marmariss", or whether he should go down to Koweit by launch. I did not answer his question, as I did not, at the time, think that he was serious. However, it now appears that Seyid Talib really intends to return the visit, and if you think the matter of sufficient importance, I should be glad of a telegraphic reply."

I am,

Yours sincerely,

W.H.W. Matthews.

Captain Shakespear,

KOWEIT.

Note
I should like to be informed that Sheikh writes to Sayed Talib, eg

PRIVATE.

BASRA,

August 15, 1911.

My dear Shakespear,

The following is an extract from a letter which I have sent to Colonel Cox to-day:-

"Seyid Talib, the local deputy, called on me to-day and in the course of conversation stated that he meant, towards the end of this month, to return the visit of the son of the Sheikh of Koweit, who had called on him at the Naqib's house at Sibhilat, shortly after his return from Constantinople. He asked me whether he should return the visit in the "Marmarisa", or whether he should go down to Koweit by launch. I did not answer his question, as I did not, at the time, think that he was serious. However, it now appears that Seyid Talib really intends to return the visit, and if you think the matter of sufficient importance, I should be glad of a telegraphic reply."

I am,

Yours sincerely,

Captain Shakespear,

KOWEIT.

296.

324

278

CONFIDENTIAL

No. C.59 C.60 of 19 11

Political Agency,

Kuwait.

FROM

Captain W. H. I. Shakespear, I.A.,

POLITICAL AGENT, Kuwait.

To

(1). The Poll.Resident in Turkish Arabia, Baghdad.

(2). His Britannic Majesty's Consul, Basrah.

Dated Kuwait, 5th September 19 11.

SIR,

I have the honour to forward herewith Extracts from Kuwait News for the month of August 1911.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Captain,

Political Agent, Kuwait.

297.

Extract from Kuwait News for week ending
17th August 1911.

279

CONDITION of COUNTRY.

296. Jhaidan bin Hithlain, Shaikh of the Ajman, has come in and composed matters with Shaikh Mu--barak with reference to the raids on Kuwait Araibdar and Tawata (vide para 263 of Kuwait news for week ending 20th July).

FOREIGN INTERCOURSE.

297. The Shaikh informed the Political Agent that the Wali of Basrah, Husain Jelal Bey, has been transfered as Wali to Diarbekir. He also said that the Basrah notables had wired to Constanti--nople asking that either Sami Pasha (at present Wali at Damascus) or Reshid Pasha, a general ap--parently designated for the Baghdad army corps command, may be sent as Wali to Basrah.

298. It is reported that news has been received that Jasim bin Brahim of the big Kuwait pearl-deal--ing firm in Bombay has purchased for £.T.180,000 all the "Sanieh" date gardens from near Dawasir Island to Basrah on the right bank of the Shatt--al-Arab. The property originally belonged to the mother and other relatives of the ex-Sultan Abdul Hamid, and reverted to the Turkish Govern--ment on his down-fall.

280 298/326

Extract from Kuwait news for week ending the 23rd August 1911.

LOCAL OFFICIALS.

304. Shaikh Mubarak recently received a begging letter from the Wali of Basrah appealing to him as a good mohammedan for a subscription towards re--construction of Government offices in Constanti--nople destroyed by fire in July.

305. The Shaikh said he felt it difficult to refuse a contribution in view of the terms of the appeal and had sent the Wali S.T.500/-.

299.
327
281

SEP 22 1911
C.94

Confidential.

No. 749 of 1911.

To

Captain W.H.I.Shakespear,
Political Agent,
Kuwait.

British Residency & Consulate General,
Baghdad, 4th September, 1911.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose for your information some items of news relating to Basrah and Baghdad received in this Residency.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant,

J. G. Lorimer,
I.C.S.
Political Resident in Turkish Arabia and
H. B. M.'s Consul General.

300.
328 (282)

Confidential.

The new Wali of Baghdad, Jalal Bey, from Adanah, arrived here on the 26th August. With a promptitude worthy of Nazim Pasha himself he has already proclaimed a large part of his policy and embarked on decided action. He has dismissed the Christian Mayor of Baghdad and replaced him by a Muhammadan; and he has given out that, if the Municipality does not work satisfactorily, he will have it abolished. It is said that he did something of the kind at Adanah.

The Wali's Farman of Appointment was publicly read at the Sarai on the 30th August, and the reading of it was followed by a speech from himself. I have not yet a full report of the speech in my hands, and the newspaper reports of it are incomplete; but the Wali seems to have said that a great street will be made through the middle of the town to carry an electric tramway; to have complimented Col. Javad Bey, who was Nazim Pasha's municipal engineer and whose services he has himself maintained, on his previous good work; to have disappointed the important Oriental Christian element by not referring to them specifically, while on the other hand his speech was garnished with pious Muhammadan expressions; and to have made slanting allusions to foreigners against whom, he said, "an iron door" must be closed at Basrah. The "iron door" phrase is not reproduced in the published accounts of the speech. He is also said to have remarked that "the hand coming from the South must be warded off".

The substance of the Wali's Farman of Appointment is ~~given~~ attached.

The street indicated by the Wali would cost T.T.10,000, if the houses, etc. to be removed were fairly expropriated, and the Municipality is now T.T.20,000 in debt, exclusive of the advance of T.T.10,000 which it has received from the National Bank of Turkey on account of a loan not yet concluded. But nothing so base as finance enters into the calculations of would-be reforming Turkish officials. By the "iron door" at Basrah, I suppose nothing more formidable can be meant than the "Marmaris" gun-boat, the 200 Nizam infantry already there, and so many of the 900 at Baghdad as could be spared.

Jalal

301
329 (283)

Confidential.

Jalal Bey also seems to be entering into close relations with the late associates of Nazim Pasha. His reappointment of Col. Javad Bey as municipal engineer is announced in the local press. He has taken 'Abdul Qadir Pasha, Khadhairi, the principal agitator against Nazim Pasha's recall, into his confidence; and the house which he inhabits belongs to that prominent character or to one of his nephews.

3021
330
284

Confidential.

ANNEXURE.

Abstract of the Farman of Appointment of Jalal Bey to the Wilayat of Baghdad, read at the Sarai on the 30th August 1911.

.....

1. The Wali is to turn the rivers of Mesopotamia to account (? by means of navigation and irrigation).

2. At least T.T.40,000 will be granted annually by the Department of Public Works for Baghdad purposes.

3. The Wali is empowered to appoint and dismiss all civil officers, except those of the ordinary Judicial and Shar'i Depart--ments.

4. The Wali is to reorganise the Police and open a Police School if possible. (This refers to "Police" proper, not to Gendarmerie).

5. The Gendarmerie are to be entirely under the Wali's orders, and all Gendarmerie correspondence with Constantinople will be conduct--ed through him in future.

6. In case of urgent or important internal questions the Wali is authorised to summon the Wali of Basrah to Baghdad for consultation

7. The Wali is to formulate a scheme, with the least possible delay for the settlement of the nomad tribes upon the land.

8. Two regular regiments at Baghdad and one at Basrah are to be at the Wali's disposal: and, if at any time he thinks it necessary that the Radifs or the Ihtiyat should be called out, he may, without previous reference to Constantinople, request the Inspector General of the 4th Inspectorat to summon them to the colours.

Remarks on above.

The 8th provision is a novel one and seems certain to lead to friction between the civil and military. It and the 5th provision do not appear to place the relations of Baghdad and Basrah on a definite or satisfactory basis, but secret instructions in ampli--fication of them may exist. The arrangement that the Inspector--General should call out Radifs is curious.

303. 331

285

H.B.M. CONSULATE,
BASRA,
PERSIAN GULF.

No. 4 February 1 1912

Paraphrase of telegram No. 10 Feb. 1st to Embassy Constantinople and repeated to Bushire.

The President of the Civil Court has been sent by the Vali today in the Sheikh's launch to Koweit to convey to Sheikh Mubarek the insignia of the First class of the order of the Medjidieh, which was conferred on the Sheikh of Koweit by the Sultan on Nov. 8 last year.

Crow

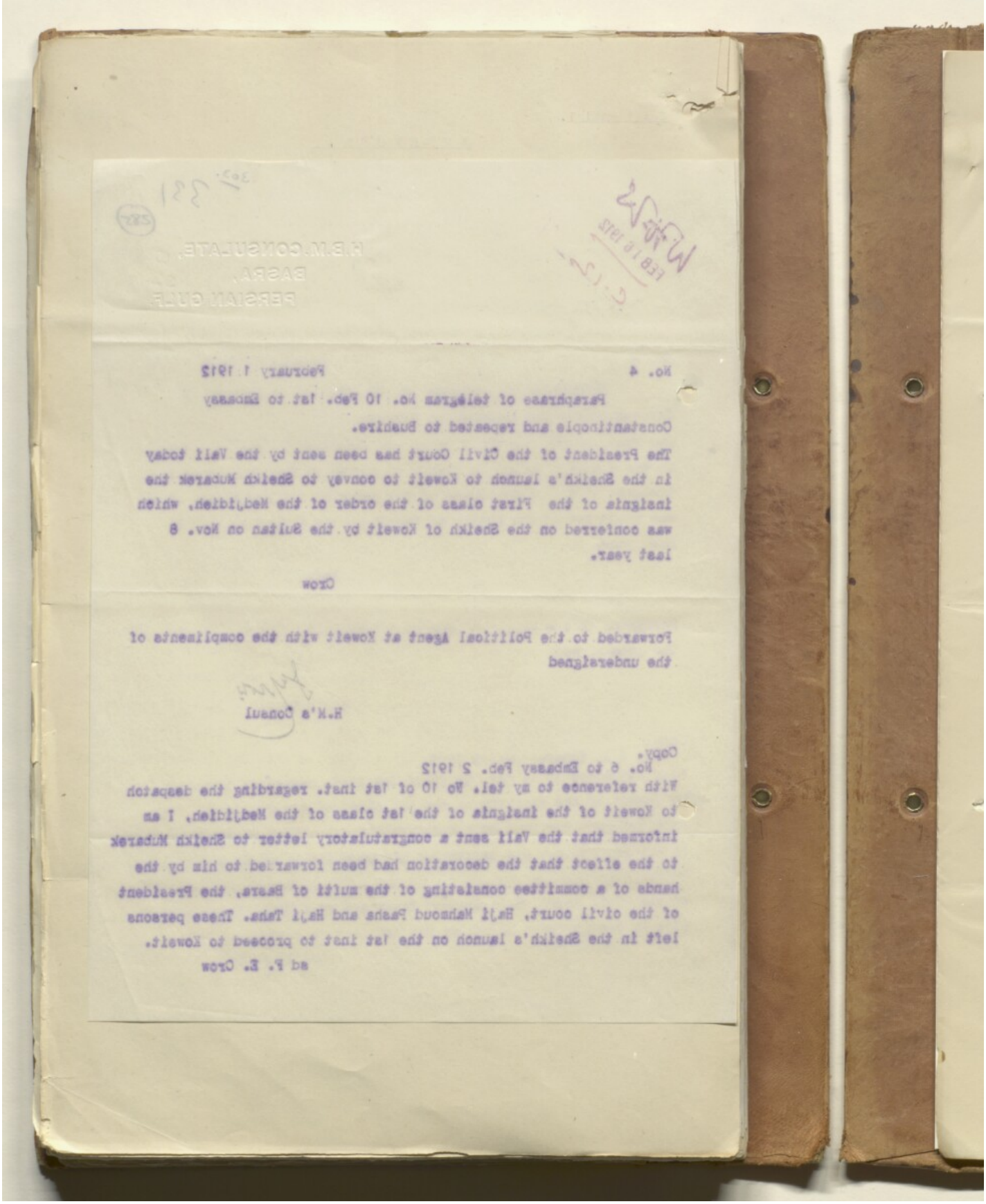
Forwarded to the Political Agent at Koweit with the compliments of the undersigned

Crow
H.M's Consul

Copy.
No. 6 to Embassy Feb. 2 1912

With reference to my tel. No 10 of 1st inst. regarding the despatch to Koweit of the insignia of the 1st class of the Medjidieh, I am informed that the Vali sent a congratulatory letter to Sheikh Mubarek to the effect that the decoration had been forwarded to him by the hands of a committee consisting of the mufti of Basra, the President of the civil court, Haji Mahmoud Pasha and Haji Taha. These persons left in the Sheikh's launch on the 1st inst to proceed to Koweit.

sd F. E. Crow



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H.M's Consul

Copy.

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ad F. E. Crow

CONFIDENTIAL.

304.
332
(286)

No. 1027 of 1912.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 22nd May 1912.

MAY 23 1912
C. 65

To

The Political Agent,

K O W E I T.

Sir,

I have the honour to forward copies of the telegrams marginally noted, received from His Majesty's Consul, Busreh, and to request that you will be good enough to place me in a position to reply to his question as soon as possible.

(1). From Consul Busreh dated 18th May 1912.
(2).....do.....do..... 21st May 1912.

I have the honour to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

I.C.S.,

First Assistant Resident.

(In the absence of the Resident).

305.
333
287

Telegram. P.

From Consul Busreh.

Dated 18th. Received 19th May 1912.

It is mentioned in the Annual Budget of the Tapoo Office at Busreh that the clerk of the Tapoo Office at Koweit is assigned a salary of 300 Piastres per mensem.

Addressed Ambassador Constantinople.

Repeated to Bushire.

Telegram. P.

From Consul Busreh.

Dated 21st May 1912.

Enquiry is made from me by Ambassador Constantinople, with reference to my telegram dated 18th May, whether there are officials at Koweit corresponding on the subject with the Busreh authorities. Kindly ascertain.

306.

334 (288)

Telegram P

From Consul Basrah
To Resident (addressed Constantinople)
no —
dated 18.5.12

In the annual budget of the Basrah Tapu office an assignation of a salary of 300 piastres a month is made for the clerk of the archives of the Tapu office at Koweit.

W 7625
MAY 23 1912
C-66

M 81.
May 20th 1912
Maskat

Copy of the foregoing to the Political Agent Koweit for information & favour of report, with compliments.

By Order

A. T. Wilson Lt. I.A.
on special duty

207.

335 (289)

Telegram P

From Resident Maskat

To Foreign Simla

no. M 82

dated 20th May 1912

Following from Basrah dated May 18th

Here follows Basrah telegram of May 18th

ends

Like the Mudirates at Wakrah the appointment is pr bably a p paper one but it is new and is plainly a disturbance of the status quo. H.M.'s Govt. wil, I presume be asked to make a pr protest at once and require a official disavowal, seeing that the document to which reference is made is apublis ed one.

This isa further example of the persistant attempts of the Porte to make points effecting the status quo in their favour du during the progress negotiations with us

Cox

MAY 23 1912

c.67

no. M 83

dated Maskt May 20th 1912

C opy of the foregoing to F.A.Kow it with compliments wit refer ence to this office no M 81 of May 20th

B.O.

Lt. I.A.

on spec al duty

308.
336 (290)

DRAFT—(For Approval).

POLITICAL ~~RESIDENCY, PERSIAN GULF.~~ Agency Kuwait.

No. C.41

CONFIDENTIAL Dated 29th May 1912.

To,

Political Resident,

BUSHIRE.

Sir,

With reference to the correspondence noted in the margin, forwarded to me ~~noted in the margin~~, I have the honour to report that no such Turkish Official as a "Tapu" Office clerk has ever ~~never~~ been existed in Kuwait.

First Assistant's letter No 1027, dated Bushire 22nd May 1912.
Special Assistant's endorsements Nos M-81, M-83 dated Maskat 20th May 1912.

2. During my recent visit to ~~Basra~~ H.M's Consul at Basra I learnt ~~ascertained~~ that this so-called appointment ~~appears~~ has appeared in the Basra Annual Budget for some five years; as it has never actually existed, it ~~would seem~~ appears to be merely a modest ~~[illegible]~~ addition to some Basra official's ~~[illegible]~~ emoluments.

3. I also met Sheikh Sir Mubarak-as-Subah at Mohamerah and took the opportunity of questioning him. He denied all knowledge of any such appointment, ~~as~~ and indeed of any Turkish official in Kuwait; ~~and~~ he added that he had no intention of ever permitting ~~an~~ Turkish officials to reside in Kuwait.

I have etc,

S 638—12,000-7-08

(291) 309. 337

CUTTING from the Arabic Newspaper "Al-Dastur", published at Basra, No 15, dated 26th Jamadi-al-Awa 1330 (11th May 1912).

تعيين معاش

عينت الحكومة ٢٠٠٠٠ الف غرش راتبا شهريا لحضرة الشيخ مبارك باشا

Grant of an Allowance of Piastres 20,000 a month to Sheikh Mubarak

CUTTING from the same paper "Al-Dastur" No 16 dated 6th Jamadi-ath-Thani 1330 (22nd May 1912.)

ترجمه قسمی

الدستور غزته‌سی صاحبنه

غزته‌کزك اون‌بشنجی نومرولو نسخه‌سنده مبارك الصباح باشایه شهری یکرمی بیك غروش معاش تخصیص اولندیغنه دائر بر فقره کوردکدی بونك اصل واساسی اولمدیغندن تکذیب ایدلمسی وقت مناسب بلاتحقیق هر ایشتدیکمکز شیلرك غزته‌یه یازلامسی اخطار اولنور

سنه ٣٢٨ مایس ٧

والی ولایت بصره

Disclaimer by Wali of Basra of above para.

210.
338
292

DRAFT—(For Approval).

POLITICAL ~~RESIDENCY, PERSIAN GULF~~ Agency, Kuwait

No. C.42

CONFIDENTIAL Dated 29th May 1912.

To,

Political Resident,

BUSHIRE.

Sir,

As an illustration of Turkish methods ~~of~~ in manu-
-facturing interests in Kuwait I have the honour to report
the following significant instance.

2. In its issue of the 11th May 1912, the Basra Arabic
newspaper "Dastur" published a paragraph (presumably inspired) that
the Turkish Government had granted a monthly allowance of
20,000 Piastres to Sheikh Mubarak. The Sheikh on hearing of
the paragraph sent his Secretary Abdul Aziz bin Salim to
represent ~~[illegible]~~ to the Wali in the sense of his former letter of
the 14th Shawal 1328 (18th October 1910) that he did not de-
-sire the honour. (A copy of this letter is already on the
Residency records).

3. The representation had the effect desired in so far th
that the "Dastur" of the 22nd May published a dementi in
Turkish over the signature of the Wali. It may be observed
that the original announcement in Arabic ~~will~~ would probably have
been read and believed by 99 persons for every one who would
peruse the subsequent contradiction in Turkish.

I have etc,

S 638—12,000-7-08

CONFIDENTIAL.

BRITISH RESIDENCY AND CONSULATE GENERAL · BUSHIRE ·

311.
339 (293)

22nd June 1912.

W 72 S
JUN 28 1912
C.85

My dear Shakespear,

Please see your letter C-42 dated the 29th May. In paragraph 2 you refer to the Wali's former letter dated 14th Shawal 1328 (18th October 1910) and say a copy of it is already on the Residency records. We cannot trace the letter here and I should be glad therefore if you would quote the number and date of letter under which it was forwarded, and send us a copy.

Yours sincerely

G W Ch

Captain W.H.I.Shakespear,
Political Agent,
K o w e i t.

Note
Recd by me as a print with Resdt's No 2895 d/ 30 Oct 1910. I never actually saw the letters as they were handed direct to Resdt by Sheikh when they met at Mohamerah sometime in oct of that year. W.

312.
340 (294)

POLITICAL AGENCY KOWEIT

CONFIDENTIAL

2nd July 1912.

My dear Bell.

With reference to your Demi-Official of the 22nd June 1912, asking for a copy of the Wali's letter to which Mubarak replied on the 14th Shawal 1328.

I have no copy of either letter in Arabic as the incident took place at Mohamerah when the Resident was there ~~at that~~ in October 1910. I have only the print on my record which contains Resident's letter No 2895 dated the 30th October 1910 forwarding translations of these letters to Government. I hope this information will suffice to enable the papers to be traced.

Yours sincerely
W.

J. H. Bill, Esq.,
First Assistant Resident,
BUSHIRE.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 1475, dated Bushire, the 19th (received 30th) July 1912.

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SIR PERCY COX, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

I have the honour to refer to the correspondence ending with this office letter No. 2895, dated the 30th October 1910, reporting the offer of a salary of £T.400 per annum by the Vali of Basrah to Shaikh Mubarak of Kuwait and to forward, for the information of Government, a copy of the communication marginally noted, received from the Political Agent, Kuwait, in the same connection.

No. C-42, dated the 29th May 1912.

No. C-42, dated Kuwait, the 29th May 1912.

From—CAPTAIN W. H. I. SHAKESPEAR, I.A., Political Agent, Kuwait,

To—The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

As an illustration of Turkish methods in manufacturing interests in Kuwait I have the honour to report the following significant incident.

2. In its issue of the 11th May 1912, the Basra Arabic newspaper *Dastur* published a paragraph (presumably inspired) that the Turkish Government had granted a monthly allowance of Piastres 20,000 to Shaikh Mubarak. The Shaikh on hearing of the paragraph sent his Secretary Abdul Aziz bin Salim to represent ot the Vali in the sense of his former letter of the 14th Shawal 1328 (18th October 1910) that he did not desire the honour. (A copy of this letter is already on the Residency records.)

3. The representation had the effect desired, in so far that the *Dastur* of the 22nd May published a *démenti* in Turkish over the signature of the Vali. It may be observed that the original announcement in Arabic would probably be read and believed by 99 persons for every one who would peruse the subsequent contradiction in Turkish.

G. C. B. P. Simla.—No. C-48-F.D.—3-8-12—44—C.G.S.

CONFIDENTIAL.

No. 1475, dated Bushire, the 19th (received 30th) July 1912.

From—LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SIR PERCY COX, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

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No. C-42, dated the 29th May 1912.

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To—The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

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G. C. B. P. Simla.—No. C-48-F.D.—3-8-12-44—C.G.S.

315
343 (297)

No. 2939 (Confidential), dated Bushire, 12th (received 20th) November 1911.

From—CAPTAIN L. R. BIRDWOOD, I.A., First Assistant Resident, (In the absence of the Resident),

To—The HON'BLE LIEUTENANT-COLONEL SIR HENRY MCMAHON, K.C.I.E., C.S.I., Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department, Simla.

With reference to Colonel Cox's telegrams Nos. 1084 and 1085 of October 24th, 1911, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the communication marginally noted, received from His Majesty's Consul at Basrah, regarding the dredging of the Bar at the entrance of the Shatt-al-Arab and the purchase of land in Basrah by Messrs. Wonckhaus & Co., on behalf of the Baghdad Railway Company.

No. 55, dated 31st October 1911.

Despatch No. 55, dated 31st October 1911.

From—His Majesty's Consul, Basrah,

To—His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

With reference to my telegrams Nos. 148 and 149 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to report to Your Excellency that Mr. C. Darby, the local manager of Messrs. Strick, Scott & Co., Limited, of London, informed me on the 23rd instant that the Vali had requested him to tender for the dredging of the Bar at the entrance to the Shatt-al-Arab. The Vali told Mr Darby that he would obtain a concession for him and spoke of purchasing two dredgers at a cost of £50,000 each. He stated that a company would have to be formed in accordance with Turkish law, and registered at Constantinople, but that there would be no difficulty about this. The Vali did not press for an immediate answer, and Mr. Darby has reported the Vali's conversation to his London Office.

The proposal is interesting as showing that the Turkish Government is still preoccupied with the Bar. It may be mentioned here that a dredger, brought out some years after Midhat Pasha's achievements in the Gulf region, has been rusting for thirty years on the bank of the river opposite Basrah.

It has been reported for some time past that Messrs. Wonckhaus & Co., the local Agents of the Hamburg-America Line, are endeavouring to acquire land in Basrah on behalf of the Baghdad Railway Company. I am now in possession of reliable information that this firm has been in negotiation with Abdul Wahab Pasha, one of the Deputies of Basrah (my Despatch No. 53 of the 18th ultimo), for the purpose of a plot of ground on the river between Maghil and Ghermet Ali owned by the Zuhair family. When Baghdad Railway material arrives in Basrah, a depôt will be necessary for storing it, pending its despatch to Baghdad. Abdul Wahab Pasha departed for Constantinople on the 26th instant, and it is stated that no sale has been effected, but I am without definite information on this point.

A German engineer of the Baghdad Railway, who passed through Basrah a few weeks ago, stated that the company would shortly send out twelve steamers and twenty-four barges, to convey railway material from Basrah to Baghdad. I am informed that Emin Bey, the local agent of the Idareh-i-Nehrieh, states that the Baghdad Railway Company has arranged to send out six steamers, which will work in connection with the Idareh steamers. According to Emin Bey, three of these steamers will ultimately become the property of the Idareh. Possibly no definite arrangements have been made yet.

I transmit herewith a translation of the decision of the Administrative Council of the Basrah Vilayet of August 10th, 1911, respecting the proposed sale for £T. 180,000 of the "Senieh" date gardens at Dawasir, to Jasim bin Ibrahim, a member of a pearl-dealing firm established in Bombay. I am informed that, before applying for this land, Jasim bin Ibrahim took the precaution of having

himself registered as an Ottoman subject in the Turkish Consulate at Bombay. The decision not to sell this land was mainly due to the "patriotic" efforts of Jelal Bey, the then Vali of Basrah. An article, said to have been inspired by Jelal Bey, was published on August 18th, in a local newspaper, "Ar-Reshad," denouncing the proposed sale of the Dawasir date gardens.

Enclosures with Basrah Despatch No. 55 of October 31, 1911.

Decision of the Basrah Administrative Council, No. 804 of July 28, 1327 (August 10, 1911).

TRANSLATION.

July 19, 1327.

The telegram of the Ministry of Finance of August 1, 1911, and the observations of the Official of "Transferred Lands" have been read. The date gardens of Dawasir and Aradah include a large tract of four thousand *jeribs* under cultivation and one hundred and fifty jeribs uncultivated. According to the sums paid for its lease for the thirteen years ending with the year 1329, a yearly revenue of £T. 5,249 is obtained in addition to tithes. In this district, the value of land is gradually increasing, and it is certain that the value of the date gardens in question will be doubled or trebled. The question, whether this land should be disposed of or not, contains considerations of extraordinary importance and nicety. The land is situated near the mouth of the Shatt-al-Arab, and apart from the increased value which it will acquire in the future, it is a set-off to the land on the opposite bank, in the Jezirat-al-Khidhr, called Abadan, which is in the possession of foreigners. If sold, no matter to whom, there is no doubt that it would ultimately pass into foreign hands, that it would cause political and administrative dangers, and that it would have far-reaching effects upon the future affairs not only of the Vilayet of Basrah, but of all Irak. Therefore, its remaining in the control of the State is essential, and a reply shall be sent to the Ministry of Finance that the application of the aforesaid customer, who formerly resided in Bombay, involves the dangers mentioned, and has been rejected. Decision given.

July 28, 1327 (August 10, 1911).

Seal of Administrative Council.

G. C. B. P., Simla.—No. 311 F. D.—22-11-11.—44.—C.B.C.

No. 230, dated Bushire, the 10th (received 20th) February 1912 (Confidential).

From—J. H. Bill, Esq., First Assistant Resident (in absence of the Resident), Persian Gulf,

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

With reference to my telegram No. 80, dated the 2nd February 1912, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the communication marginally noted received from His Majesty's Consul at Basrah regarding the despatch to Kuwait of the insignia of the First Class of the Order of the Medjidiyieh.

No. 6 of February 2nd to His Majesty's Ambassador, Constantinople.

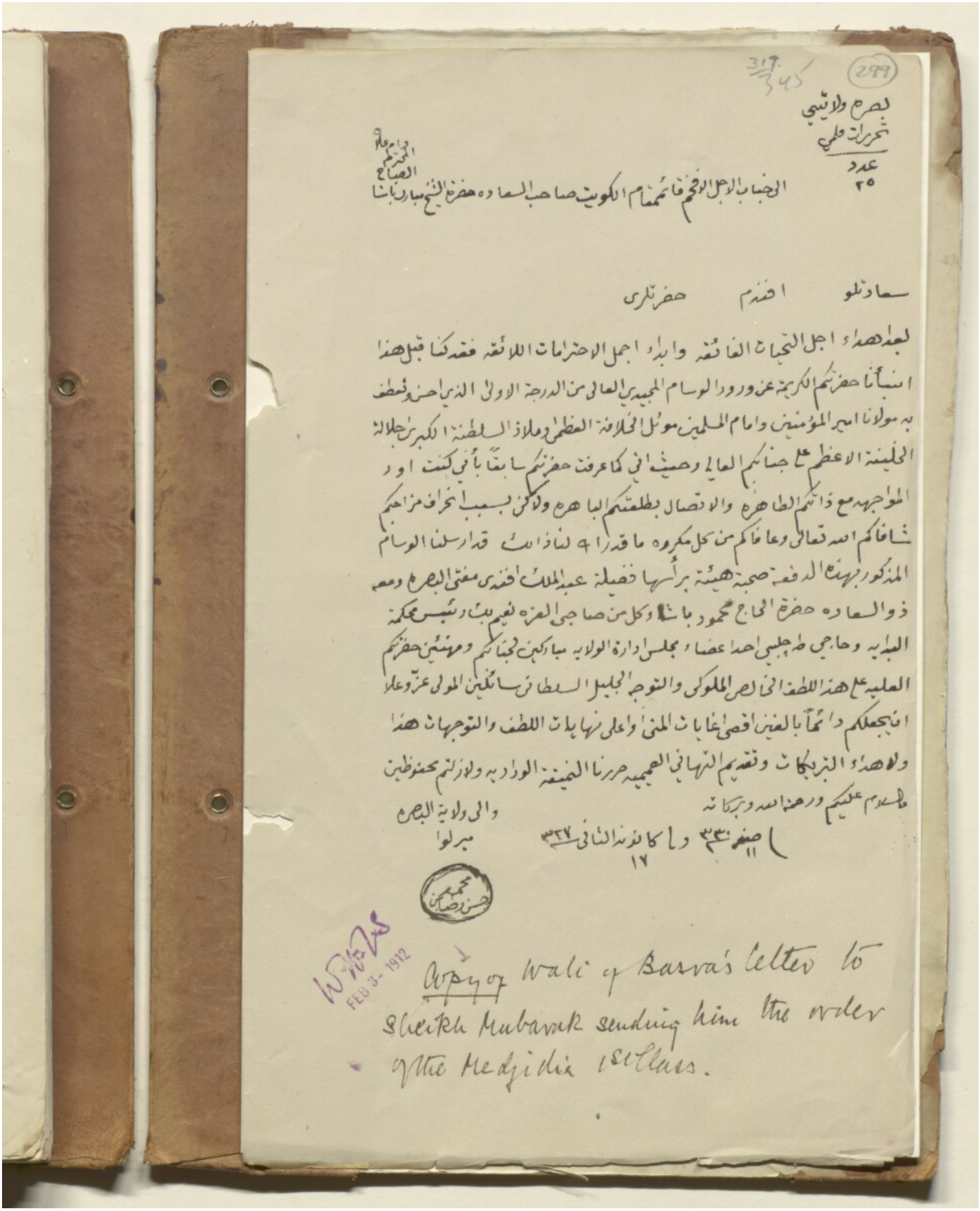
No. 6, dated the 2nd February 1912.

From—F. E. Crow, Esq., His Majesty's Consul at Basrah,

To—His Excellency the Right Hon'ble Sir G. A. Lowther, G.C.M.G., C.B., His Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

With reference to my telegram No. 10 of the 1st instant regarding the despatch to Kuwait of the insignia of the First Class of the Order of the Medjidiyieh, I am informed that the Vali addressed a congratulatory letter to Shaikh Mubarak informing him that the decoration had been forwarded to him by the hands of a committee consisting of the Mufti of Basrah, the President of the Civil Court, Haji Mahmud Pasha and Haji Taha. These persons left in the Shaikh's launch on the 1st instant to proceed to Kuwait.

124 F. D.—S E—513-521—Apl.
Ed.—P. M M.



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بصره ولايتي
تحريرات قلمي
عدد
٣٥

الى جناب الاجل الافخم فخامتلو شيخ الكويت صاحب السعاده حضرة الشيخ مبارك باشا
دام عزه
المحترم
الصباح

سعادتلو افندم حضرتلري

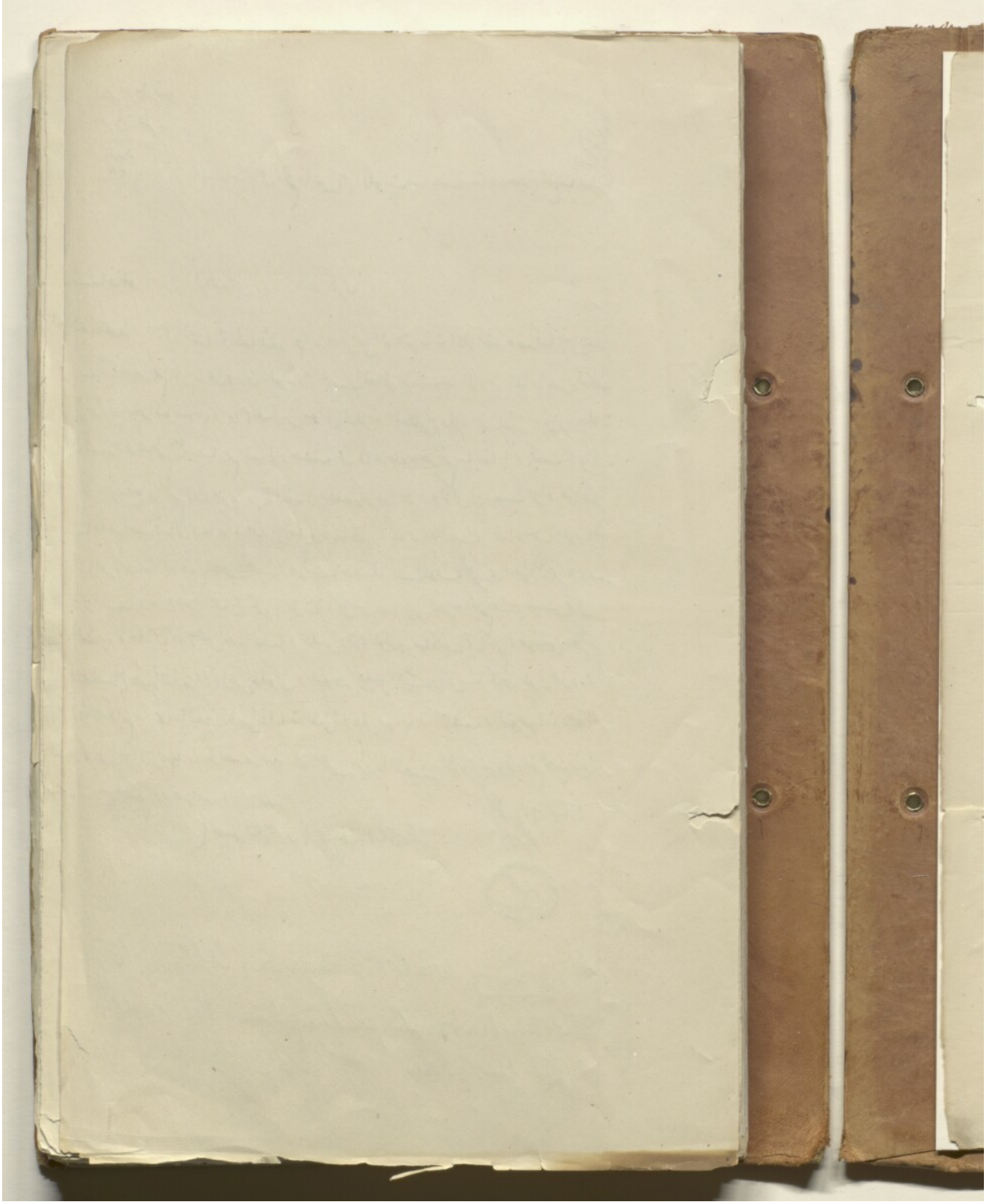
بعد اهداء اجل التحيات الفائقه وابداء اجمل الاحترامات اللائقه فقد كنا قبل هذا انبأنا حضرتكم الكريمة عن ورود الوسام المجيدي العالي من الدرجة الاولى الذي احرز وتعطف به مولانا امير المؤمنين وامام المسلمين موئل الخلافة العظمى وملاذ السلطنة الكبرى جلالة الخليفة الاعظم على جنابكم العالي وحيث اني كما عرفت حضرتكم سابقاً بأني كنت اود المواجهه مع ذاتكم الطاهره والاتصال بطلعتكم الباهره ولكن بسبب انحراف مزاجكم شافاكم الله تعالى وعافاكم من كل مكروه ما قدرا لنا ذلك قد ارسلنا الوسام المذكور بهذه الدفعه صحبة هيئة برأسها فضيلة عبد الملك افندي مفتي البصره ومعه ذو السعاده حضرة الحاج محمود باشا وكل من صاحبي العزه نعيم بك رئيس محكمة البدايه وحاجي طه چلبي احد اعضاء مجلس ادارة الولايه مباركين لجنابكم ومهنئين حضرتكم العليه على هذا اللطف الخاص الملوكي والتوجه الجليل السلطاني سائلين المولى عز وعلا ان يجعلكم دائماً بالعين اقصى غايات المنى واعلى نهايات اللطف والتوجهات هذا ولاهداء التبريكات وتقديم التهاني العميمه حررنا النميقة الوداديه ولازلتم محفوظين والسلام عليكم ورحمة الله وبركاته

والي ولاية البصره
مبرلوا

(صفر ٣٣٠ / ١١ وما كانون الثاني ٣٢٧ / ١٧)

محمد حسن رضا

Copy of Wali of Basra's letter to Sheikh Mubarak sending him the order of the Medjidie 1st Class.



318. 346 (300)

SEP 6 - 1912

No. 1200, dated Bushire, the 16th (received 24th) June 1912 (Confidential).

From—J. H. Bill, Esq., I.C.S., First Assistant Resident (In the absence of the Resident),

To—The Secretary to the Government of India in the Foreign Department.

With reference to my telegram No. 626 of to-day's date on the subject of the appointment of a clerk of the Turkish Tapoo Office at Kuwait, I have the honour to forward, for the information of the Government of India, a copy of the communication marginally noted received from the Political Agent, Kuwait, in reply to a request for a report on this subject together with copies of telegrams that have passed between His Britannic Majesty's Consul at Basrah and myself in connection therewith.

No. C.-41, dated the 29th May 1912.

To Consul, Basrah, No. 616, dated the 13th June 1912.

From Consul, Basrah, dated the 15th June 1912.

No. C.-41, dated Kuwait, the 29th May 1912 (Confidential).

From—Captain W. H. I. Shakespear, Political Agent, Kuwait,

To—The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf, Bushire.

With reference to the correspondence noted in the margin, forwarded to me, I have the honour to report that no such Turkish official as a "Tapoo" office clerk has ever existed in Kuwait.

First Assistant's letter No. 1027, dated Bushire, the 22nd May 1912.

Special Assistant's endorsement No. M.-81, dated Maskat, the 20th May 1912.

Special Assistant's endorsement No. 83-M., dated Maskat, the 20th May 1912.

2. During my recent visit to His Majesty's Consul at Basrah, I learnt that this so-called appointment has appeared in the Basrah Annual Budget for some five years; as it has never actually existed, it appears to be merely a modest addition to some Basrah official's emoluments.

3. I also met Shaikh Sir Mubarak-as-Subah at Mohamerah and took the opportunity of questioning him. He denied all knowledge of any such appointment, and indeed of any Turkish official in Kuwait; he added that he had no intention of ever permitting Turkish officials to reside in Kuwait.

Telegram P. No. 616, dated the 13th June 1912.

From—The First Assistant Resident, Bushire,

To—His Majesty's Consul, Barash.

(P.) Please see your telegram dated the 21st May. I have received a report from the Political Agent at Kuwait that no such Turkish official as a Tapoo Clerk has ever existed in Kuwait and further that the Shaikh denies all knowledge of any Turkish official there. Political Agent adds that he understood at Basrah that this official had been shown in the Basrah budget for the last five years.

Kindly let me know if this is so by telegram.

Telegram P., dated and received the 15th June 1912.

From—His Majesty's Consul, Basrah,

To—The Political Resident, Bushire.

(P.) Please see your telegram No. 616. For the last three years the salary has, according to my information, figured in the budget, is purely nominal and no one has been appointed yet. It is at Constantinople that the budget appears to be drawn up: that no such official exists seems clear.

616 F. D.—S E—296-405—July.

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(301)

No. 398 of 1913.

British Residency and Consulate-General,

Bushire, 6th February 1913.

A copy of the undermentioned letter is forwarded, with compliments, to the Political Agent, Koweit, for information, with reference to the correspondence ending with his letter No.C-46 dated 20th July 1910.

By order.

A T Wilson Captain,
Assistant Resident.

No. 381 dated 2nd February 1913, from Resident to Foreign.

asked by D/O for a copy of Basra report No 3 of 18 Jan 1913.
W 9/2/13.

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Spare

No. 381 of 1912-13

Lieut-Colonel Sir Percy Cox, K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,

The Hon'ble Lieut-Colonel Sir Henry McMahon,
G.C.V.O., K.C.I.E., C.S.I.,

S i m l a.

2nd February 13.

I have the honour to report the steps which have been taken by the various Arabs communities of the Persian Gulf to give expression to their sympathy with their co-religionists, the Turks, in the latters' present embarrassment, by subscribing considerable sums of money in aid of the Turkish Government, or of relief organizations.

2. At Koweit a sum of Rs.1,54,000 was subscribed, in general aid. At Bahrein Rs.1,04,100 were contributed especially in aid of Turkish sick and wounded; while from Debai Rs.43,000 were forthcoming in aid of the Turkish Government.

It seemed natural that the Arab communities of the Gulf should seek to evince some practical sympathy for their co-religionists, and, as in 1910, the movement being evidently based rather on religious sentiment than political sympathy, it was not thought expedient to discourage it in any way.

Resident's letters Nos.1887, 2078, 2196 dated 10th July, 31st July and 14th August 1910.

3.

321.
349 (303)

3. It is interesting to note that the deputation sent by the Bahrein community to Busreh to arrange for the remittance of their subscriptions to Constantinople considered it a wise precaution to telegraph to the Turkish Government from Bushire announcing the total amount and the

Vide Residency Diary entry No.1903 December 1912. } object of the

subscription before they proceeded to Busreh; where they anticipated with good reason and later experienced considerable difficulty in keeping the money out of the hands of local officials. In this connection the Sheikh of Bahrein is reported to have expressed himself indifferent to the destination of his subscription, so long as he got a receipt for it, whilst Sheikh Mubarak frankly expressed the belief that not more than one third of the total amount subscribed at Koweit would reach its intended destination.

4. These contributions have all been mentioned to the Government of India incidentally in the diaries of the several Political officers concerned but it has seemed convenient to bring the incidents, in their collective bearing, to the notice of Government, especially as a report regarding the Koweit contribution furnished to His Majesty's

No.3 dated 18th January 1913. } Embassy by His Majesty's

Consul, Busreh, seems possibly liable, if read by itself, to create an erroneous impression.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

SD/- P.Z. Cox, Lieut-Colonel,

Political Resident in the Persian Gulf.

M.

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(304)

Confidential.

BRITISH RESIDENCY AND CONSULATE GENERAL BAGHDAD

No. 666 of 1913

British Residency & Consulate General,

Baghdad 2nd June 1913

To,

The British Political Agent,

Kuwait.

Sir,

I have the honour to enclose herewith an item of news received in this Residency during the month of May 1913.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient Servant

J. G. Lorimer,
I.C.S.

Political Resident in Turkish Arabia and
H. B. M.'s Consul General
Baghdad

W.F.O.
14. JUN 1913
C. 67

Confidential

523. (305)

5. In its issue of the 6th May the "Zawadir" newspaper of Baghdad stated that the British representative at Kuwait recently visited Najma'ah in Sadair, Central Arabia; that he wished to enter the town, but that the inhabitants prevented him his doing so; and that he then sent presents, including a watch and binocular to Amir 'Abdullah-al-'Askar, by whom he was brought inside. The editor continues: "The Consul next ascended Marqab "and took photographs. Afterwards he went to 'Abdul 'Aziz-as-"Sa'ud and had an interview with him in Khafs. The Consul said "that he wished to buy the country from him, but this proposal "was declined by 'Abdul 'Aziz."

It may amuse Captain Shakespear to know that his movements are followed even at Baghdad and what garbled accounts of them are given.

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CONFIDENTIAL No C-22 of 1913.

Political Agency,
Kuwait.
10th November 1913.

From,

Captain W.H.I. Shakespear, I.A.,
Political Agent, KUWAIT.

To,

The Political Resident in the Persian Gulf,
BUSHIRE.

Sir,

I have the honour to report herewith the substance of a conversation which recently took place between Sheikh Sir Mubarak-as-Subah and myself, as it may be of interest in view of the Anglo-Turkish Convention so lately concluded and of the Porte's declarations therein recorded. The Sheikh may perhaps have exaggerated what actually passed, 'pour se faire valoir', but I see no reason to doubt that the story has a foundation of fact.

File XVII/70 page 238

2. Some ten days ago the Sheikh's agent in Basrah, Abdul Aziz bin Salim bin Badr, was summoned by the Acting wali and after much eulogy of Sheikh Mubarak together with adjurations to secrecy, he was requested to inform the Sheikh that the Grand Vizier and the Minister for the Interior desired to discuss some secret matters personally with the Sheikh over the telegraph wire and that if the Sheikh could see his way to fix a day and time when he would be present in either one of the Turkish telegraph offices at Fao or Basrah, the ministers named would converse direct with him from the Porte. Abdul Aziz replied to the Acting wali that he was sure the Sheikh would be averse to the suggestion unless he could be given some indication beforehand as to the

subject of the intended discussion. On this the Acting Wali said the matter was secret but seeing that Abdul Aziz was already in the Sheikh's confidence he supposed he might divulge the outlines of the proposed discussion. The Porte intended to appoint a Wali to Basrah at an early date, and the post might be conferred on the present acting incumbent or another but in any case the Porte paticularly desired to obtain the closest cooperation between the Sheikh and the Wali, more especially in matters concerning the desert tribes and Nejd; it was also intended that the wali should be given orders to consult Sheikh Mubarak in any and every matter likely to cause controversy whether in Basra itself or in the desert: in short, the wali would be required to consult the Sheikh of Kuwait in all matters relating to the Basrah Vilayet and the Arabs in Arabia and would be expected to conform to his suggestions. Abdul Aziz is said to have replied that from what he knew of the Sheikh he thought it most improbable that Mubarak would agree to mix himself in matters so far beyond his range, and which might lead to his becoming entangled in serious difficulties with the desert tribes, apart from the tax on his time and resources which an acceptance of the position indicated would entail ; he would, however, inform the Sheikh of the conversation. The Acting Wali then closed the interview with more eulogy of the Sheikh's loyalty to and friendly relations with the Porte, pointed out the great honour conferred on the Sheikh by the trust reposed in him and the Sultan's desire to obtain his cooperation on so extended a scale and particularly requested that the matter should be kept secret even from the Sheikh's bosom friend, Sheikh Sir Khazal Khan.

33 In relating the story to me Sheikh Mubarak said he had no intention of agreeing for the suggestion seemed obviously a manoeuvre designed to shift to his shoulders the

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unpleasant burden of controlling the desert tribes, in which the Turks had failed so lamentably, whilst he personally would remain always ready to their hand, should the Turkish authorities require in future an excuse or a scapegoat on which to fasten any further consequences of their own ineptitude. He said he had requested Abdul Aziz bin Salim to convey to the Acting Wali his appreciation of the honour conferred in inviting his cooperation and to say that he regretted he had his time very fully occupied with the administration of his own territories, people and tribes, that he was an old man, and that he could not presume to advise the distinguished officials the Porte might appoint to the charge of the Basra Vilayet, who would naturally be better informed regarding matters in their own province than was possible for the Sheikh, living as he did, at a distance.

4. I thanked the Sheikh for his frankness in telling me the story and contented myself with observing that though the scheme theoretically might have advantages for the Porte I could see none in it for the Sheikh of Kuwait, but rather a probability of unending difficulties with the desert tribes, Ibn Rashid and the Amir of Nejd, the almost inevitable result of the equivocal position in which he personallly would be placed; that, as he well knew, the prosperity of his port and people depended very largely upon his maintaining good and amicable relations with the chiefs of the interior of Arabia.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient servant,

Captain,
Political Agent, Kuwait.